

U.N. guards in Iraq stay on

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Secretary-General Boutros Ghali said late Tuesday that U.N. guards and aid workers would stay in Iraq despite the expiration of an agreement guaranteeing their presence. Baghdad so far has not renewed a memorandum of understanding that expired on Tuesday and allowed 500 U.N. guards and 600 aid workers to deliver humanitarian supplies donated from governments and charity groups. The posting of the U.N. guards allowed allied troops to withdraw from northern Iraq where they provided aid to Kurds after the Gulf war. The secretary-general, in a statement, said discussions were still taking place in Baghdad between U.N. officials and Iraqi authorities on renewing the agreement. He said he regretted that Iraq had not yet replied to a draft text submitted by the United Nations. "In the meantime United Nations personnel will continue their humanitarian activities in Iraq under existing arrangements," he said. In his statement, Dr. Ghali said the memorandum, first signed in April 1991 and renewed at the end of last year provided "an appropriate basis" for the U.N. humanitarian programme in Iraq "designed to meet the needs of vulnerable groups throughout the country."

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Saudi banker indicted in U.S.

NEW YORK (AP) — Sheikh Khalid Ben Maftouz, chief operating officer of the largest bank in Saudi Arabia, and an associate were indicted Wednesday on charges of defrauding Bank of Credit and Commerce (BCCI) depositors of some \$300 million. New York County District Attorney Robert Morgenthau said Sheikh Khalid and Haroon Kahloon acted with BCCI founder Agha Hassan Abedi and former BCCI chief executive Swaleh Naqvi in the scheme, which stretched from 1985 to 1991. They were charged in an indictment handed up by a Manhattan grand jury. Mr. Morgenthau said the transactions involving Sheikh Khalid, Mr. Kahloon and BCCI provided the outlaw bank with more than \$1 billion.

Sudan pumps southern oil

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan has begun commercial oil production in the country's war-torn south just weeks after it purchased concessions from a U.S. petroleum company, the country's energy and mining minister said. Osman Abdul Wahab said in a television broadcast Tuesday that the Abu Jabra field will produce 2,000 barrels a day. The oil will be refined at the nearby Abu Jabra refinery in southeast Sudan, he said. Sudan recently purchased Chevron Con oil concessions in the south.

Israel agrees to free 12 Iranians

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel has agreed to free 12 Iranians, held in jail for illegally entering the country after the Gulf war, officials said on Wednesday. The Iranians sought asylum in the Jewish state after fleeing Iraq and allegedly crossing from Jordan. Some have been detained for more than a year. "There was no need to keep them in jail for this long," said their defence lawyer Zvi Rish. A justice ministry spokeswoman said government authorities had decided to free the Iranians and allow them to live and work on farms until a Western country agreed to grant them permanent asylum.

7 killed in shooting rampage in France

PARIS (R) — A 25-year-old man killed seven people and wounded five on Wednesday in a shooting rampage at a machine-tool factory in eastern France which sacked him two months ago, local authorities and radio reporters said. The man was reported to have committed suicide after running through the factory, in Besancon near the Swiss border, for half an hour shooting at people. The man, who was not immediately named, took the Enterprise Bourgeois factory manager hostage in his car and drove inside the works. France-Info Radio reported. He opened fire — with an automatic weapon — according to one witness, in executive offices and on the shopfloor. Police sharpshooters quickly surrounded the factory but the man killed himself.

Bosnian Serb leader 'will fight Sixth Fleet'

TEL AVIV (R) — Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic said on Wednesday his forces would fight the U.S. Sixth Fleet if it interfered in their conflict. "If they come to Serbian territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina in order to disarm Serbian people or to attack Serbian people he would have no choice but to fight," he told Israel Radio in a telephone interview from a Serb-controlled mountain district near battle-torn Sarajevo (see related story on page 8).

Libya criticises OAU summit

TRIPOLI (AP) — A Libyan newspaper on Wednesday criticised an African summit meeting in Senegal as "an exercise in futility" and attacked the countries' adherence to international sanctions against Libya. The newspaper Al Zahf Al Akhdar, an organ of Libya's revolutionary committees, said the meeting of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) was unable to solve the continent's problems because it is dominated by the West.

Algerian leader given hero's funeral

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Assassinated Algerian head of state Mohammed Boudiaf was laid to rest Wednesday at Martyrs' cemetery.

Scenes of emotion and tight security at key spots underlined the nation's divisions.

Around 10,000 people packed the area outside the presidency, guarded by troops with fixed bayonets. Scores of people fainted as women ululated, men wiped tears from their eyes and a paramilitary gendarmie helicopter flew over the cortege route.

In a ceremony televised live, Algerian and foreign dignitaries paid final respects to the 73-year-old leader, gunned down in the eastern town of Annaba on Monday.

His death has been widely blamed on Muslim fundamentalist extremists who plunged the country of 25 million people into turmoil for the past year.

But at the presidency, scores of youths on seeing the coffin, chanted: "Chadli, assassin."

Reuter correspondent Abdul Aziz Barrouhi reported.

They were referring to former President Chadli Benjedid who quit last January after Islamic fundamentalists swept towards power in a general election.

The election was later cancelled. Diplomats said then that Mr. Benjedid, in power for 13 years, was forced out in a coup d'etat.

Near the presidency, old posters of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) remained on walls, warning: "We will strike with force."

Some mourners shouted: "FIS assassins," blaming Mr.

King sends condolences to Algeria

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein Wednesday visited the Algerian embassy in Amman to offer condolences over the death of Algerian leader Mohammed Boudiaf.

King Hussein signed a register of condolences for the government and people of Algeria.

King Hussein was accompanied by Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki. The King delegated Jordan's ambassador to Algeria to participate in Mr. Boudiaf's funeral Wednesday. The Algerian embassy in Amman announced Tuesday it was opening a condolences register at its premises for three days.

Boudiaf's death on the banned party.

"He came to build a future for our children. Why was he killed?" one distraught woman asked the presidential guard before the television cameras.

Another cried out: "We must take revenge for Boudiaf on his killer if not we are going again to detest this country of thieves and killers."

The collective presidency Mr. Boudiaf headed announced that his killer had been captured and would lead to those behind the assassination.

Al Watan newspaper on Wednesday said 12 members of

the security intervention unit were reported to have been detained.

Before the cortege moved away at 12.30 p.m. (1130 GMT), the four presidency members, Defence Minister Khaled Nezzar, Ali Haroun, Ali Kafi, Tedjini Haddam, along with Prime Minister Sid Ahmad Ghazali, paid final homage.

The four remaining members of the High State Council have been meeting since Tuesday, but no decision on Boudiaf's replacement was expected for several days.

Although Mr. Boudiaf held the title of president of the ruling council, the real power is held by military leaders, including the defence minister, Gen. Nezzar.

Security along the route through the overcrowded city of two million was discreet. But on roofs near the great mosque where prayers for the dead will be said over the body, elite army marksmen were posted while a helicopter flew over the route.

Chanting people jogged alongside the cortege through the main streets of Algiers.

Reuter correspondent Bernard Eddinger said scores of people fainted and were taken from the presidency area in ambulances.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat cast the first handful of soil onto the wooden coffin, matched by members of Algeria's presidency, Mr. Boudiaf's family, and members of the government of Mr. Ghazali.

Algerian war veteran Slimane Amirat, a comrade of Mr. Boudiaf,

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Settlements emerge as sticking point in Rabin coalition efforts

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Jewish settlements in the occupied territories emerged Wednesday as a key sticking point in Yitzhak Rabin's efforts to merge right and left-wing forces into a few governing coalitions.

At issue is a phrase in a draft of guidelines for government policy circulated Tuesday by Mr. Rabin's Labour Party that mentions "strengthening settlements along confrontation lines."

The draft appeared to deviate from Labour's platform which says no new settlements will be built for a period of one year during peace negotiations.

But a senior Labour official suggested Wednesday that while the platform clause was omitted from the proposed guidelines in order not to alienate a potential right-wing coalition partner, it did not mean it was now invalid.

"Not only things that are mentioned in the guidelines will be executed," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

He noted that while the platform promised there would be no new settlements for a year, it permits expanding existing ones in the area of

occupied Jerusalem and Jordan Valley.

Mr. Rabin's Labour Party swept the left to a stunning win over Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's hardline Likud last week on pledges to curb Jewish settlement, reach quick agreement on Palestinian self-rule, and trade occupied territory for peace.

Labour's guidelines did not mention territorial compromise. They also aimed away from backing settlement curbs and fast movement toward Palestinian autonomy.

But the apparent nod to the right did not satisfy hawks.

Ex-general Rafael Eitan said his far-right Tsomet Party could not join a government whose principles were blurred.

"There are many things that just first be clarified," he told Israel Radio. "Our own principles are clear."

The leftist Meretz Party, Labour's natural ally and the third largest faction in the new parliament, said the guidelines were unacceptable.

"There is no mention of (United Nations Resolution) 242, nor elections for autonomy, nor freezing settlements, and there are elements that could harm the peace process," Meretz leader Shulamit Aloni told

reporters.

Resolution 242 calls for Israeli withdrawal from occupied territory in exchange for peace. Meretz wants to see a Palestinian state established alongside Israel.

Labour, which has promised to form a new government by the opening of parliament on July 13, will have 44 of the 120 parliament seats. Meretz will hold 12 seats, and Tsomet 8.

Ultra-orthodox parties, also courted by Mr. Rabin's as potential coalition partners, denounced the guidelines for implying that more rabbinical students might be called up for military service.

Meretz and Tsomet campaigned hard against exemption from military service and state funds for orthodox Jewish institutions.

Mr. Rabin, moving to heal a long-standing rift between Washington and the Shamir government, was praised by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on Tuesday after the Labour leader called for continuous Arab-Israeli peace talks.

The talks will resume in Rome after Mr. Rabin takes office.

Mr. Shamir's backing for Jewish (Continued on page 5)

Iran and Syria accused of distributing bogus \$100-bills

WASHINGTON (AP) — Iran, aided by Syria, is using government presses to print up to billions of dollars in "nearly perfect" counterfeit U.S. \$100 bills, a congressional task force charged Wednesday.

The aim is to destabilise the U.S. economy while easing Iran's deficit and buying influence around the world, said a report released by two Republican members of Congress.

The high-quality, fake currency is showing up in Europe, Asia, Africa and in the cash-hungry nations of the former Soviet Union where Iran is trying to spread Islamic fundamentalism, said representative Bill McCollum and Senator Connie Mack, both of Florida.

While most Americans rarely handle \$100 bills, they are commonly used in transactions abroad and officials say they often are the preferred currency for bribes, money laundering and drug deals.

"The implications for the dollar's role as the international medium of exchange could be

serious," Mr. McCollum said. A major reason for disclosing details of the congressional investigation now, he said, is to counter recent Iranian claims that the U.S. government is producing the bogus bills itself.

Mr. McCollum said the massive counterfeiting operation is "tantamount to an act of war."

Evidence gathered by the congressional task force on terrorism and unconventional warfare has been passed on to the Secret Service and the U.S. Treasury Department, he said.

Mr. McCollum said it is impossible to determine how many counterfeit bills were being produced by Iran and distributed through Syria's connections, but Iran's goal appears to be to print up to \$12 billion annually to erase its foreign currency shortfall.

He said evidence in the report indicates billions of dollars could already be in circulation, with some of it filtering into the United States but most of it still held abroad outside the banking system.

Israelis hit PFLP base

TYRE, Lebanon (R) — Israeli helicopter gunships blasted a Palestinian base in the Rashidiyah refugee camp Wednesday in the second air raid on Lebanon in three days, police said.

A police spokesman said two helicopters fired two rockets at 6:40 p.m. (1540 GMT) into the base of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), led by George Habbash.

There was no immediate report of casualties in the raid. By police count, at least 37 people have been killed and 82 wounded in 21 previous Israeli raids on Lebanon this year.

The Israeli military command announced that the "target was hit and all planes returned safely to their base."

Israeli helicopters on Monday fired rockets at a house belonging to a member of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah in South Lebanon, Lebanese security sources said. One source said no one was in the house at the time.

It was not clear what provoked Wednesday's raid.

Police raid Sharon ministry

TEL AVIV (AP) — Police raided an office of the housing ministry looking for documents related to charges of misappropriation of public money, Israel Radio reported Wednesday. The raid targeted Amidor, which is responsible for construction and rental of low-income housing. It came after the annual report of Israel's state comptroller alleged that Amidor head Uri Shani misused public funds to entertain himself and ministry employees. The police raid, by members of the fraud squad, took place Tuesday afternoon, the radio said. Mr. Shani was appointed by Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, a right-wing Likud Party member likely to be replaced under the new government being formed by Labour leader Yitzhak Rabin. The comptroller's charges against the ministry were played up by Labour during their successful election campaign. Mr. Sharon has said he will contend for the leadership of the Likud Party while it is in opposition. Parliamentary member Dodi Zucker of the left-wing Meretz bloc alleged Tuesday that the housing ministry purchased shredders to destroy incriminating documents before the police raid. Citing an unnamed "inside" source, Mr. Zucker said: "There are documents proving that the housing ministry awarded contracts before they were approved by the government."



KING VISITS GHQ: His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday visited the Armed Forces Headquarters where he was received by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb, the chief of staff of the land forces, the director of the General Intelligence Department, the chief of staff

of the Royal Air Force, Joint Chiefs of Staff Assistants and the inspector general. King Hussein had a meeting with Field Marshal Abu Taleb and discussed with him issues of concern to the Armed Forces. The meeting was attended by Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki.

Jordan rejects criticism, reports 'clear formula' to enforce sanctions

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan has and will continue to abide by "a clear formula" in its dealing with U.N.-imposed sanctions on Iraq and considers U.S. criticism of its handling of this issue as "unjustified" senior Jordanian officials said Wednesday.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Jordanian government has honoured its pledge to fulfil the "mandatory" U.N. sanctions against Iraq since the day they were imposed and will continue to do so and that it has yet to receive evidence of its alleged involvement in smuggling goods.

While confirming that the government will be taking additional measures to tighten control of the border with Iraq, the official explained that these steps will aim to monitor smuggling along the desert border terrain.

"If there is any smuggling it is not being done through the regular borders," one official said.

Jordan has been under increasing pressure to limit the flow of goods to Iraq despite repeated statements here that the Kingdom is honouring its pledge to abide by the sanctions against its eastern neighbour.

This pressure increased lately when Jordan rejected a proposal to station U.N. inspectors in Jordanian territory to monitor goods which are unloaded at Aqaba port and trucks crossing the border.

Another senior official said this week that the proposal cast doubts on Jordan's credibility and honour and was in itself "offensive."

The official said that Jordan was aware that its position may bring about negative consequences but that having spent "decades building our credibility and honour, we will not allow anyone to undermine it."

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian told the House of Representatives Foreign

Affairs Sub-Committee on Europe and the Middle East Tuesday that the U.S. administration would continue to hold discussions with Jordan "on the total necessity of effective enforcement measures — and I stress effective."

Mr. Djerejian said that the U.S. would not intervene to mend relations between the Kingdom and the Gulf states in what appeared to be a punitive approach towards the Kingdom because of its refusal to accept U.N. inspectors to monitor the enforcement of sanctions against Iraq.

"We have also signalled the Jordanians that it is very difficult for us at this stage and given these circumstances for us to really promote the relationship both bilaterally and in the region in terms of trying to enhance Jordan's reintegration into what is its normal economic hinterland in the Gulf," Mr. Djerejian said.

(Continued on page 5)

House passes 4 more articles of law on parties

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament passed another four articles of the 29-Article draft law on political parties Wednesday in a session. The House also reached consensus on the veto rights and authorities of the minister of interior over political parties.

After incorporating minor amendments suggested by Amman Deputy Yacoub Qarrash, the House voted in favour of the government's version of Article 10 of the draft law in a vote of 52-68. Article 10 states that the minister of interior must announce the legalisation of a given party within seven days after the elapse of a 60-day period following the filing of its application.

The minister should state clear and legal grounds if he decides to reject the application of any party. The minister must inform the founding members of the party of the reasons for his objections. The amendment which was agreed upon by Parliament to this article states that if a minister objects to legalising a party he must register his objections with the court in a period of 30 days. Having done this, the minister cannot change his mind about the reasons or add any.

The right of appeal by party founders in case their application

(Continued on page 5)

France sends relief supplies to Somali refugees in Aden

ADEN (AP) — A French navy ship arrived Wednesday carrying 20 tonnes of badly needed food, medicine, blankets and tents for thousands of Somali refugees who fled their war-torn homeland.

The shipment was brought from France's big Djibouti naval base across the Red Sea aboard a 60-metre, 280-tonne landing craft that bore a registration number but no name.

A U.N. official in Aden said the supplies were taken from the stores of international aid agencies in Djibouti and would be distributed to the tens of thousands of Somalis in the Aden area.

Priority will be given to nearly 4,000 who arrived last week on board two crowded ships, the Gob Wein and the Manser, and are currently crammed into a squalid beach camp.

The supplies were driven aboard military trucks to a newly set up office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees in the city shortly after the ship

docked.

Thirty-eight French soldiers helped to unload the cargo in the back yard of the building in downtown Aden.

It was not clear whether this was a one-time shipment or instead the first in a series by the French navy.

It was the first such operation by a Western nation since the influx of Somalis to Yemen began months ago. Germany also made a contribution of food bought from the local market by its consulate in Aden.

Somalia is wracked by a civil war that began in the aftermath of the overthrow of President Mohammad Siad Barre in January last year.

Four months of vicious clan fighting in Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, killed and wounded more than 30,000 people. The bloodletting ended with a U.N.-brokered ceasefire in early March, but the conflict disrupted harvests and prevents the distribution of food imports.

Factional fighting shatters relative calm in Kabul

KABUL (R) — Fighting broke out between rival factions in the Afghan capital Kabul on Wednesday, shattering six days of relative calm.

The military hospital confirmed one dead and one wounded during battles in the Sara Chowk Bazaar district but workers at the hospital gate said at least six injured had been brought in.

Eyewitnesses said the fighting started at about noon when one group fired on another with rockets and automatic weapons.

Several hours later, approaches to the district were sealed by groups of heavily-armed men backed by tanks and smoke billowed from a fire burning out of control in the market. One tank crewman said it was too dangerous to enter the area to put it out.

A Reuters correspondent saw fighters at an intersection pull two men from a pick-up truck and beat them savagely with the butts of Kalashnikov rifles. The victims, bleeding severely, were then sent off under armed guard

to an uncertain fate.

"They are Hekmatyar's men," explained the local commander. "They had weapons in their truck and had come here to kill us."

Gulbuddin Hekmatyar leads the Hezb-e-Islami party which has so far refused to join the new Islamic government. Mr. Hekmatyar controls the southern approaches to the city, near Sara Chowk, and his men have engaged in rocket and artillery duels with rival groups in the area.

The Hezb leader objects to the presence in Kabul of former government militia forces controlled by General Rasheed Dostum. Gen. Dostum and his men came over to the rebel side in April and helped topple the government of then-President Najibullah.

Mr. Hekmatyar refuses to enter Kabul until Gen. Dostum's men withdraw, which they show no sign up doing.

It was impossible to confirm which groups were involved in Wednesday's fighting, who started it or how many people were killed or injured.

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Mubarak expects Rabin to be flexible in peace talks

CAIRO (Agencies) — President Hosni Mubarak says he expects an Israeli government headed by Labour Party leader Yitzhak Rabin to be flexible and understanding in peace talks with the Arabs.

Mr. Mubarak spoke to Egyptian reporters in Dakar, Senegal, where he attended an African summit conference. Cairo newspapers published his remarks on Wednesday.

"I expect there will be flexibility and understanding if Yitzhak Rabin forms the new government in Israel," Mr. Mubarak said, alluding to the Israeli stance in peace talks.

Egypt and Israel signed a U.S.-brokered peace treaty in 1979. This has enabled Cairo to serve as a conduit between Israel and other Arabs.

"I have met with Rabin in Cairo, and he is a man with whom there can be give and take," Mr. Mubarak said.

He referred to a one-day visit to Cairo by Mr. Rabin in September 1989, when he was deputy leader of the Labour Party under Shimon Peres. Labour then was a partner in a coalition cabinet headed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of the hardline Likud Party.

During that visit Mr. Rabin and Mr. Mubarak discussed ways of initiating Arab-Israeli peace talks. The effort failed and it was not until last October that the United States managed to get negotiations started at Madrid, Spain.

Five rounds have been held without producing tangible results. The next round is to be in Rome but no date has been set.

Mr. Rabin won last month's parliamentary elections and is certain to succeed Dr. Shamir. Just-published proposed guidelines for Mr. Rabin's cabinet call for curbing Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank and Gaza without freezing it completely.

The guidelines also urge speeding up the peace talks with the Arabs and pledge to "refrain from actions and operations that could disrupt the proper conduct of negotiations."

There has been a similar call from Cairo.

The leading state-owned newspaper Al-Ahram on Tuesday urged a respite in the Palestinian uprising against Israel in the occupied territories to help Mr. Rabin.

"Rabin should be given a sufficient opportunity to complete his ministerial lineup and lay down his new, practical policy," the newspaper said in an editorial. "Then he can be judged."

Al-Ahram's call was unprecedented since the uprising began in 1987. The newspaper followed it up on Wednesday with a broader appeal to all Arab negotiating parties to show flexibility.

"With the victory of the Labour Party in Israel, the Arab side needs to reassess its position and coordinate in a way that would afford greater flexibility in dealing with the new government," Wednesday's editorial said.

"A firm and solid position was the appropriate answer to Shamir's intransigence and stagnation in the past. But the situation has changed and what is needed now (from the Arabs) is responsiveness, tolerance and a desire to reach an understanding without surrender."

Rabin offers hope — Dumas

France and Saudi Arabia considered the victory of the Labour Party in Israel's general elections offered hope for Middle East peace, French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas was quoted as saying.

"France and Saudi Arabia consider that the (result of the) Israeli election offered hope for peace," Mr. Dumas said.

The official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted Mr. Dumas as saying that the new government would be a "very high priority" during Britain's six-month presidency of the European Community which began on Wednesday.

While ensuring Israel's security was the key to any agreement, there must be self-determination for the Palestinian people, he said.

"There is no solution to the overall problem, no peaceful future for the states of the region until the Palestinian problem is solved," Mr. Major said.

saying at a news conference in Jeddah on Tuesday that "the new circumstances... will put (the) Middle East peace process in a new form and France is still ready to play a role in this field."

Mr. Dumas said he had delivered a personal message to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia from French President Francois Mitterrand. The contents of the message was not disclosed.

Major wants Rabin to act

British Prime Minister John Major said Tuesday he expected Israel's new government to make early progress in Middle East peace negotiations, including a plan for autonomy and elections in the occupied territories.

Mr. Major, in his first public comment on the election victory by Israel's Labour, said he hoped to visit Israel and meet its new prime minister but gave no date.

"We have every reason to believe that the new government in Israel will be determined to make very early progress in the negotiations on the five-year interim autonomy arrangements and elections in the occupied territories," the British prime minister said in a speech to a Conservative Party dinner.

"This will be a great fillip to the prospects for peace."

Mr. Major, in the speech to the Conservative Friends of Israel Group, said helping to achieve peace in the Middle East would be a "very high priority" during Britain's six-month presidency of the European Community which began on Wednesday.

While ensuring Israel's security was the key to any agreement, there must be self-determination for the Palestinian people, he said.

"There is no solution to the overall problem, no peaceful future for the states of the region until the Palestinian problem is solved," Mr. Major said.

Fateh accuses Mossad of killing top officer

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) mainstream Fateh faction on Wednesday accused the Israeli secret service Mossad of assassinating its top officer in Lebanon and vowed revenge.

In a statement, the Fateh military command in the southern port of Sidon blamed Lebanese authorities for what it said was their failure to protect Palestinians in refugee camps in South Lebanon.

Unidentified gunmen ambushed Fateh Lieutenant Colonel Anwar Madi in Sidon on Tuesday, pumping six bullets into his head and chest and wounding three bodyguards. Col. Madi died of his wounds in hospital.

"The movement will track down the leaders of the gangs that did this, which have ties with the Israeli Mossad, wherever they are," said Fateh, which is headed by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Col. Madi was appointed Fateh's leader in Lebanon in April.

He had promised to work for Palestinian unity after a series of attacks on Palestinian officers in South Lebanon. Security sources said an inter-Palestinian power struggle was to blame.

The attacks started after Lebanese troops routed PLO guerrillas from their last bases facing Israeli troops in South Lebanon in July last year and bottled them up in refugee camps.

Lebanese authorities on Wednesday ordered owners of unlicensed handguns and rifles to surrender them within 20 days.

The PLO, which said it had handed over all its heavy and medium weapons to the Lebanese army last year, argues it needs rifles and handguns to protect the Palestinian refugee camps.

Col. Madi, 45, was ambushed by two gunmen as he drove from the city to his office in the sprawling 'Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp on Sidon's outskirts, police said. Three of his bodyguards were wounded.

A spokesman, who cannot be identified under standing regulations, said the killers appeared to be professionals.

"One assailant raked Madi with 12 sub-machine-gun bullets and the other fired the final bullet below Madi's right ear from a pistol," he said.

The gunmen calmly got into their car and drove off down an alleyway watched by several stunned onlookers.

Col. Madi, twice married with six children, was pronounced dead by doctors on his arrival at Hamoud hospital in Sidon, 40 kilometres south of Beirut.

'Ain Al Hilweh, which houses some 60,000 people, is a hotbed of feuding between a dozen Palestinian factions who operate in the teeming shantytown.

In recent years, dozens of officials from rival organisations have been killed in 'Ain Al Hilweh, often in personal vendettas as much as ideological power struggles.

Murders are avenged by the factions and families concerned, with little regard for what law there is in the region.

Many of these attacks involved Fateh, the largest faction within the PLO, and the breakaway faction headed by Abu Nidal who opposes Mr. Arafat's peace efforts.

Atef Beiso, the PLO's security and intelligence chief, was shot dead in Paris June 8 by two gunmen using silenced pistols while he was in the city for consultations with French intelligence officials.

Lebanese government to confiscate light arms

BEIRUT (Agencies) — President Elias Hrawi's government has issued a 20-day ultimatum to all irregular troops or "armed elements" to surrender their weapons to government soldiers.

The government, in a statement released late Tuesday after a lengthy session, also empowered the army and police to carry out house raids for one month beginning July 21 to confiscate U.N.-surrendered light weapons "throughout Lebanon."

The statement did not specify weapons included under the term light, but in Lebanese parlance the phrase refers to automatic rifles and pistols.

The decision came 18 months after Mr. Hrawi's government disbanded the various warring militias that fought each other throughout the 1975-1990 civil war.

Most of the militants have either surrendered their weapons to government troops or shipped to destinations outside Lebanon heavy weapons banned by the government, including 50-caliber machine guns to Howitzers, rocket launchers and armoured vehicles.

But the Iranian-backed Hizbollah has refused to surrender its heavy weapons, claiming they are used by its resistance guerrilla faction in fighting Israel across its self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon.

Hizbollah withheld immediate comment on the new government decision, but it was expected to maintain its stand of refusing to hand over weapons as long as Israel maintained its occupation of the 1,100-square-kilometre "security zone."

The government, which does not have any influence in the "security zone," also was expected to fail in confiscating weapons of the 3,000-strong Israeli-affiliated South Lebanon Army militia, which patrols the zone along with 1,200 Israeli troops.

Hizbollah's estimated 4,500 fighters have maintained their light weapons in Beirut, east and South Lebanon although the government says the areas are under the sole control of its regular troops.

Lebanese soldiers and police have not tried to confiscate light

weapons from gunmen in the slums of south Beirut, a Hizbollah stronghold, even when Hizbollah gunmen fired their assault rifles in the air to celebrate Germany's loss of the European soccer cup to Denmark 0-2 last Friday.

The joyous shooting was an expression of ill-feeling towards Germany for holding two Shiite brothers, Mohammad Ali and Abbas Hamadi, who are serving jail terms for terrorism.

The Hamadi's elder brother, Abdul Hadi, heads Hizbollah's security apparatus.

The new decision to confiscate light weapons also was expected to put the government in confrontation with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) guerrillas, a year after the Lebanese army crammed them into refugee camps in South Lebanon in two days of clashes.

The PLO handed over its heavy weapons to the Lebanese army last July, but its estimated 3,000 guerrillas maintain their automatic rifles, machine-guns and rocket-propelled grenade launchers in five refugee camps in South Lebanon.

The government ultimatum does not apply to the Syrian army's 40,000 soldiers in the country. Syria, the main power broker in Lebanon, maintaining the troops under a 1976 mandate from the Arab League.

Many Lebanese civilians, who widely regard possession of a pistol or rifle as a basic right, said they would ignore the government order and would hang on to their private arsenals.

"If soldiers invaded my house and stayed for a week I might think of losing my guns," said a cafe owner, who declined to be named. "But I don't think anyone will come in to collect them."

He said his unlicensed "collection" was modest by Beirut standards — three Soviet-made AK-47 rifles, three pistols, a revolver, a B-7 rocket-propelled grenade launcher and anti-tank rockets.

In addition, he owns several hunting rifles and ammunition.

The army rarely searches private homes for arms and relies on sporadic searches of motorists at checkpoints to stop people moving with weapons.

Afghan leader pledges Islamic security force

KABUL (R) — Afghanistan's new president Burhanuddin Rabbani has said he was disbanding all military and police organisations and forming a new Islamic-based security force.

"We will rebuild the armed forces based on the sacred religion of Islam," he said in a nationwide broadcast, Tuesday.

He said restoring internal security was his top priority and he planned to form a new Jihadi (holy warrior) army from Islamic Mujahedeen guerrillas, with "professional, educated Muslim officers."

Mr. Rabbani, who took office on Sunday, told the nation: "The new armed forces will be the defenders of the property and dignity of the people, not defenders of looters and murderers."

National security and police units would be dissolved as well as militia organisations and tribal military groups, he said.

Kabul's war-weary residents had been waiting to see whether he would try to end the intermittent street fighting and looting that has engulfed the city in the past two months.

Mr. Rabbani succeeded Sibghatullah Mojaddadi, appointed interim president in April by Afghan guerrilla leaders after they captured Kabul at the end of 14 years of civil war.

Under Mr. Mojaddadi, the capital and the country were ruled by a patchwork of undisci-

plined guerrilla groups and former government militias.

Hardline militia factions have demanded former government militia units be ordered from Kabul and purged from the military.

Generals such as Rasheed Dostum, who changed allegiance earlier this year and helped the rebels topple the government, view themselves as heroes of the Islamic revolution.

Gen. Dostum's militia controls much of northern Afghanistan and is the strongest armed group in Kabul.

Mr. Rabbani left no doubt Afghanistan had embarked on a radical Islamic transformation. He invoked Islamic law and principles in discussing criminal justice, commerce and education.

He confirmed a general amnesty announced by his predecessor remained in effect and said work on a provisional constitution would soon begin.

Mr. Rabbani said Russia was heir to Soviet responsibilities in Afghanistan and called on Moscow to help post-war reconstruction and pay reparations.

He said Afghanistan's foreign policy would be neutral and non-aligned.

He pledged support for Muslims in Kashmir, where separatist militants are campaigning for independence from India or a merger with Pakistan.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraq to Kurds: Stop stealing pylons

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq told Kurds to stop stealing pylons or face complete darkness in their cities. Al-Jumhuriyah, the government newspaper, said three of the four power lines supplying Sulaimaniyah were out of order after the removal of cables and power lines. "The power network in the autonomy region has been the subject of theft by certain elements who sold themselves to the foreigner," the newspaper quoted a source at the Ministry of Industry and Minerals as saying. The source said Sulaimaniyah, a city of almost one million people and a major Kurdish rebel stronghold, "will fall under complete darkness if parts of the remaining line were stolen." The source called on Kurds to try and stop the theft of power-related equipment in Kurdistan otherwise "the area will be denied the blessing of electricity for an unspecified period." It said organised theft of power lines, cables and pylons was being "carried out by criminal gangs aided by foreign parties conspiring against Iraq." Al-Jumhuriyah did not name who the gangs belong to, but in the past the official press put the blame on members of Jalal Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan. Iraq has in the past accused the Kurds of removing pylons and selling them to neighbouring Iran. The source said the Kirkuk-Sulaimaniyah line was almost completely taken to pieces with the parts stolen and sold.

Bootleg Poison seized in UAE

ABU DHABI (R) — A vast haul of bootleg perfume and Taiwanese-made toiletries has been seized by police in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in a crackdown on counterfeiting pirates, local newspapers reported on Wednesday. Fake bottles of Christian Dior's perfume Poison, and toiletries bearing brand names including Johnson and Johnson's baby shampoo were in the haul, described as one of the biggest in the UAE. The fake goods were sold locally or destined to be re-exported to Europe and Africa.

Egyptian novelist sentenced to new jail term

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian novelist Alaa Hamed, sentenced to eight years' prison in December for a book questioning religion, was given a further one-year jail term on Tuesday for a new book deemed indecent. Court sources said Judge Zakariya Abdul Aziz released Mr. Hamed on bail pending appeal. Hamed has not started serving his other sentence because Prime Minister Atef Sedki, in his function as Egypt's deputy martial law governor, has yet to endorse it. The sources said Assistant Prosecutor Moataaz Zayed told the court that Mr. Hamed's book "Al-Firash" (The Bed) "revolved around sex, ridiculed religions and went beyond the limits of decency and attacked Islam and Muslim scholars." The novel at the centre of the earlier case was "A Distance In A Man's Mind" which a court said "threatened national unity and social peace." It begins with a man asking: "Who am I? A name in a waiting list. A Muslim by heredity. If I were born in an atheist mould, I would have been one. A person has no choice in his birth or his religion." Mr. Hamed, a relatively unknown writer apart from the court cases, has been suspended from his job at the tax authority since the latest prosecution was brought, the sources said.

Rare Koran copies recovered in Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — Police on Tuesday recovered 13 rare Korans worth \$3.6 million stolen by a library employee who planned to smuggle and sell the books abroad. The daily newspaper Al-Ahram reported that the employee stole the handwritten Korans three days ago from the General Egyptian Organisation for Books. The books are more than 300 years old. Two other books of literature, one written in Persian, also were stolen, the newspaper reported. In a separate incident, police said three brass Islamic crescents were stolen from atop the famed Mohammed Ali Mosque in Cairo. Police said they were investigating the incident. The mosque, built in 1828, overlooks Cairo and is one of the city's most renowned Islamic sights.

Turkish Cypriots denounce U.N. 'unity map'

NICOSIA (AP) — A Turkish Cypriot newspaper Tuesday published a purportedly secret U.N. map delineating Greek and Turkish Cypriot regions in a proposed bi-zonal federation aimed at reuniting the war-divided island. The daily Kibris, considered the mouthpiece for Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş, headlined the front-page map "national danger" because it indicates the Turkish Cypriot minority surrendering some territory. Kibris, which means Cyprus in Turkish, claimed the map indicated that the U.N. proposals envisage uprooting 50,000-60,000 Turkish Cypriots from 34 villages in the Turkish-occupied north so that Greek Cypriots driven out in 1974 can return to their homes. It would also shrink the area under Turkish Cypriot control from the current 34 per cent of the island to 25 per cent, Kibris said. Greek Cypriot government spokesman Akis Fantis complained that if the map is genuine, it marked "a blatant violation of the secrecy undertaking" made by Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders when they met at the United Nations last week. He declined to say if the map was genuine.

Iran MPs slam British over Rushdie

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian deputies, reiterating the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's death order against Salman Rushdie, said on Tuesday a visit to the British parliament by the novelist hurt Britain's interests around the world. "The British parliament's disgraceful act of inviting the apostate author of 'The Satanic Verses' not only ruined the parliament's prestige but hurt that country's interests in the world," Tehran Radio quoted the deputies as saying in a statement read at the Majlis. Mr. Rushdie privately met a group of members of parliament last week as part of his efforts to get British government to force Iran to revoke Ayatollah Khomeini's 1989 edict for his death. "The imam's historic edict on Salman Rushdie's apostasy stands and all Muslims of the world and Hizbollah (Party of God) forces have a duty to carry it out," the statement said. Tehran's radical Jomhuri Eslami daily urged the government on Sunday to curb commercial links with Britain in response to the British parliamentarians' meeting with Mr. Rushdie. An Iranian charity headed by a Khomeini aide is offering \$2 million plus expenses for anyone who kills the Indian-born novelist. Mr. Rushdie is living in hiding under police guard.

U.S.: 'Right of return' superseded

THE U.S. believes U.N. General Assembly Resolution 194, adopted in 1948 and calling for repatriation of refugees, has been "superseded" by subsequent U.N. Security Council resolutions supporting land for peace, The Jerusalem Post has learned.

In a recent meeting with a group of American Jewish leaders, a senior Bush administration official also said the U.S. will abide by a 1970 letter, written by then-president Richard Nixon to then-premier Golda Meir, making clear U.S. policy against an automatic Palestinian "right of return."

"We shall not press Israel to accept a solution to the problem for the refugees which will basically alter the Jewish character of the State of Israel and endanger its security," Nixon wrote on July 22, 1970.

UNRWA reportedly says there are an estimated 2.6 million Palestinians living abroad. Israel says that to enable them to be repatriated is tantamount to national suicide.

After a flurry of Israeli anger this past spring at State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler's remarks indicating U.S. support for resolution 194, the U.S. said the resolution was not the basis for current Middle East peace talks.

But the senior administration official took this a step further, by saying 194 had been "superseded" by Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, thereby rendering it invalid. He also ruled out any other U.N. resolutions as the basis for talks, saying 242 and 338 constitute the "sole terms of reference for the peace talks."

On other regional issues, he said the U.S. is doing all it can to halt missile proliferation in the Middle East, noting the administration has persuaded China not to keep its promise to sell M-9 missiles to Syria.

The administration, however, has not fared as well as stemming the flow of North Korean Scud C missiles to the region.

The Jewish leaders urged the U.S. to do all it can halt Iranian support for Hizbollah and other Islamic fundamentalist groups bent on attacking Israel. They said the regime of Hashemi Rafsanjani does not deserve the label "moderate" as long as it is funding such radical groups.

They also called for caution in dealing with Syria's Hafez Al Assad, so that the administration does not make the same mistakes it did with Iraq's Saddam Hussein before the invasion of Kuwait in August, 1990.

On the highly-charged subject of Jerusalem, the senior official said U.S. policy remains unchanged, that the city remains a subject for negotiation.

He said he realized there will continue to be differences between the administration and Israel, as well as its American Jewish supporters. He said the goals should be to "disagree agreeably," just as the U.S. does with Britain. — The Jerusalem Post.

Fahd, Rafsanjani may exchange visits

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and Saudi Arabia's King Fahd may soon swap visits, capping a three-year rapprochement between the two former Islamic adversaries, the Tehran Times said Wednesday.

The English-language newspaper quoted First Deputy-Foreign Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati as saying in an interview that relations between the two Gulf countries are the best in 12 years.

Excerpts of the interview were carried by the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) in a dispatch monitored in Cyprus.

Mr. Besharati said Mr. Rafsanjani and King Fahd "may soon visit each other's countries and have vital discussions." He did not elaborate on what he meant by "soon."

The Iranian official, who recently returned from a pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia during which he met with King Fahd, said he found the Saudi monarch "the most ardent supporter of better

Iranian-Saudi relations, based on mutual respect and without interfering in each other's internal affairs."

He also said Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal may visit Iran to help prepare for a heads-of-state summit.

Mr. Besharati said a recent upward trend in oil prices was the "direct result" of better relations between the two countries, which are both giants within the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	"Sanctuary's Savages"
18:30	Maggy
19:00	News in French
19:15	Le Cirque
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	The Simpsons
21:00	Civil Wars
21:30	News in English
22:00	Movie of the Week: "Opposites Attract"
PRAYER TIMES	
03:52	Fajr
05:27	(Sunrise) Dhuha
12:38	Dhuhr
16:19	'Asr
19:50	Maghrib
21:25	Ihram
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish Tel: 810740	
Assumption of God Church Tel: 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel: 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel: 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel: 661757	
Terrasanta Church Tel: 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel: 623541	
Anglican Church Tel: 625383	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel: 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel: 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel: 771751	
St. Ann's Church Tel: 627981	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 811225	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel: 623624 and 654932	
Church of the Nazarene Tel: 676691	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be fair and winds will be northerly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Amman Min./Max. temp. 15 / 29	
Aqaba 21 / 36	
Djaza 14 / 30	
Jordan Valley 20 / 35	
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 27, Aqaba 34. Humidity readings:	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Amman 40 per cent, Aqaba 28 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMBULANCE:

Dr. Wael Dumitri 774800
Dr. Hussein Haddad 731267
Dr. Isam Al-Azzam 892004
Dr. Ramzi Mizzawi 894788
Fire pharmacy 661912
Petroleum pharmacy 776336
Al-Azma pharmacy 637055
Nabatiya pharmacy 623672
Al-Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsi pharmacy 637660

REPAIRS:

Dr. Abdul Majed Sababneh (-)
Al-Shera pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:

Dr. Samir Al-Lawzi (-)

EMERGENCIES

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Response 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 821111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 996390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 670355
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Complaints Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdeli Telephone Repairs 661191
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53300
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-53300

HOSPITALS

AMBULANCE:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn 6442016
Alkhil Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Plestin, Shamsiari 6641714
Shamsi Hospital 669531
University Hospital 845849
Al-Musader Hospital 6672729
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Abli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 7771013
Al-Bakir, J. Ashrafieh 7711126
Army, Marfa 8916175
Queen Alia Hospital 6024050
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)900000
The Sims Hospital (09)980000
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)999000
IRBID:
Princess Banna Hospital (02)277000
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)277000
Baa Al Nabees Hospital (02)266000
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)313000

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (terminal 1)

15:15 Sanaa
18:15 Riyadh
18:40 New Delhi

Jordan and Turkey express desire to strengthen relations

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein reviewed Turkish-Jordanian relations Wednesday with a visiting Turkish parliamentary delegation, led by first deputy speaker to the Turkish National Assembly Yilmaz Hacaoglu.

The latest developments in the Middle East and other international areas were discussed at the audience held at the Royal Court, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The audience was attended by the speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, the Chief of the Royal Court, and the Turkish ambassador to Jordan. The Turkish team also had a meeting Wednesday with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan who expressed hope that Turkish and Jordanian officials will discuss matters of concern to their two countries and other states in the region.

The Crown Prince said that he was hoping that Jordanian and Turkish leaders will succeed in laying the foundation for strong ties to help the two countries

confront and deal with various issues, Petra said.

On this week's European security and cooperation meeting, the Crown Prince said it was hoped that a new chapter will be opened in Turkish-Arab relations as well as Arab relations with Black Sea and European countries.

Mr. Hacaoglu expressed Turkey's desire to further bolster relations with Jordan, noting that the two countries share a common history, faith and traditional friendship, which he said, would serve as a catalyst for bilateral cooperation in all fields.

Mr. Hacaoglu said that Ankara was satisfied with the outcome of recent talks in Amman of the Jordanian-Turkish economic committee. He voiced hope that further contacts will be maintained to accomplish more for the two countries.

The Turkish parliamentary delegation has already met with the speakers of the Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament to discuss parliamentary affairs.



The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature is restoring and developing the village of Dana as well as trying to attract tourists to the wildlife reserve

Plans underway to restore, attract visitors to Dana village, reserve

AMMAN (J.T.) — Plans are underway by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) to restore and develop the village of Dana, close to the Dana Wildlife Reserve. The plans are to preserve the village's cultural heritage.

RSCN Director General Maher Abu Jaafar said that the society has embarked on establishing a centre for visitors to the village and the wildlife reserve, offering them various services. It has also started offering assistance to the villages to help them restore damaged buildings.

Dana, in the Tafleh area in southern Jordan, is one of the Kingdom's seven wildlife reserves cared for by RSCN. It covers 100 square kms and is one of the few areas where a large animal population thrives.

The mountain gazelle, ibex and striped hyena are among the species at Dana, located in scenic wooded mountains in the Rift Valley.

According to Mr. Abu Jaafar, the RSCN, in cooperation with the Jordan Electricity Authority, will supply power to the Dana village and help prepare designs for water, sewer and road networks. They hope to encourage the population to remain in the village and not migrate to other areas with better services.

The plans also aim to create jobs for the local population by training them in managerial and conservation skills to protect the reserve. He added that people will also be trained in traditional handicrafts to sell to the visitors and foreign tourists.

Handicrafts such as, rug weaving, can be learnt through courses to run in cooperation with the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) and the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, Mr. Abu Jaafar noted.

In a recent interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Abu Jaafar said that the RSCN was preparing a documentary film about the Kingdom's seven wildlife reserves, featuring the different species of animals being raised and the efforts to protect the trees and other flora and fauna in the country.

The RSCN, established in 1966, is a private voluntary organisation with public service status. It plays an active role in the enforcement of the laws related to the conservation of nature and environmental protection.

King Hussein inaugurates science centres and calls for national policy

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday inaugurated the general secretariat of the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST), the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) Computer Technology Training and Industrial Studies Centre (CTTISC) and the Princess Sumaya University College for Technology (PSUCT). The King also inaugurated the Science and Technology exhibition, voicing his deep pride and admiration of those operating the equipment and computer systems.

In a brief statement of the ceremony, the King said the country has created the opportunity for skilled men and women to pursue efforts to achieve further progress for the Kingdom.

King Hussein described Jordan's scientists and technicians as among the elite and on par with their colleagues in advanced nations. The King demanded that scientific and research institutions adopt a national policy for its programmes to Jordanians and

the Kingdom. He focused mainly on the environment, energy and education.

The PSUCT, which grants bachelor degrees in computer sciences, received the first batch of its students in the 1991-1992 scholastic year. Once preparations are completed, the PSUCT will start teaching a new field of specialisation; namely, electronic maintenance engineering.

The PSUCT aims at developing human resources in Jordan in the fields of computer sciences and electronic maintenance engineering to suit the basic needs of Jordan and the Arab region. The college has eight lecture halls, two computer laboratories, a computer centre, and a library containing more than 250,000 books.

CTTISC, established as a result of Jordanian-Japanese cooperation launched in 1978, was implemented in accordance with an agreement signed between the Japanese government represented by the Japanese Interna-

tional Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Jordanian government, represented by the Higher Council for Science and Technology and the RSS.

CTTISC, the first of its kind in the region, aims at training manpower in the field of computers, transferring the latest technical information in the field of informatics, as well as contributing to the socio-economic development in Jordan by adopting modern technologies and acquiring the know-how.

CTTISC will work to attain these objective through organising advanced technical programmes using modern techniques and software that works on main frame mini and micro computers. The King toured the three units and was briefed on their activities and programmes.

Among those present at the ceremony was Japan's ambassador to Jordan Tadayuki Nonoyama, whose country provided much of the training equipment.



His Majesty King Hussein tours computers and technology at one of the three centres inaugurated Wednesday

Deadline for residence permits ends, hundreds of non-Jordanian workers could leave the country

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Interior will not issue residence permits to non-Jordanian workers unless they have formal work permits from the Ministry of Labour, according to a statement by Interior Minister Jawdat Al Sbuul Wednesday.

The minister made the statement at the end of a deadline for non-Jordanians to either obtain formal work permits or leave the country.

The majority of non-Jordanian workers in the Kingdom have been working here without permits, according to Minister of Labour Abdul Karim Al Kabard, who said that strict measures will be followed to enforce the labour law.

Normally, non-Jordanian Arab workers pay JD 100 in fees annually for work permits while a non-Arab pays JD 300 a year. According to recent plans drawn up by the Ministry of Labour, under the directives of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, priority of employment will be given to Jordanian citizens. Latest statistics of unemployed Jordanians show their number at nearly 129,000 people.

The Ministry of Interior is keen on enforcing rules and regulations and on imposing fines on the violators, said Mr. Sbuul. The government gave non-Jordanians until the end of June 1992 to obtain work permits and pay their fines for delays, according to regulations.

Mr. Sbuul said that domestic maids of all nationalities are also included under this law.

The prime minister last February issued a statement demanding that the Labour Ministry deal with unemployment, which he described as "a serious problem for Jordan." The government is keen on dealing with this issue.

employing all available means in a drive to find work for Jordanian job seekers, the prime minister said.

A report by the Labour Ministry in May said that the flood of Palestinians expelled from Kuwait has swelled the ranks of the jobless, forcing the Ministry of Labour to take drastic measures against non-Jordanians.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King Hussein congratulates Canada on its national day

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein sent Wednesday a cable to Governor General of Canada Ray Hnatyshyn to congratulate him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government on the 125th anniversary of the establishment of the Canadian confederation. King Hussein lauded Canada's role at the international level and thanked the governor general for his hospitality in receiving His Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor during their last visit to Canada. The King affirmed that Jordan is keen to enhance friendship and cooperation with Canada to achieve their common goals in enhancing peace and stability in the world.

Prince Hassan lauds preachers

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan stressed in his meeting with the army, Civil Defence and Police Security Department preachers that a major role is played by them in clarifying and teaching religious affairs to the people. The Crown Prince conveyed to them His Majesty King Hussein's greetings and appreciation. On the other hand Prince Hassan lauded the great role shouldered by the Al Al Bait Foundation.

PSD chief arrives

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Director Major General Fadel Ali arrived in Amman Wednesday after an official visit to France and Germany. During his tour Maj. Gen. Ali familiarised with the advanced training programmes in the police training centres in the two countries.

Embassies to open in Vienna and Kazakhstan

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Wednesday approving the Cabinet's decision to exchange diplomatic representation with Kazakhstan at the level of embassies provided that the diplomatic representation in Kazakhstan covers Islamic central Asian states. Another Royal Decree was issued approving the Cabinet's decision to appoint Jordan's ambassador to China as Jordan's non-resident Ambassador to North Korea. A third decree was issued approving opening an embassy for Jordan in Vienna to cover Austria, the United Nations agencies, Czechoslovakia and Hungary and endorsing a decision to recognise the independence of the Republic of Croatia, Slovenia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

IDB opens two branches

AMMAN (Petra) — The Industrial Development Bank (IDB) has decided to open two branches in Irbid and Aqaba with the aim of expanding its activities and services in the various parts of the Kingdom. The IDB has also approved granting 23 loans worth JD 2,119,000 to various industrial projects. Six of these loans worth JD 352,000 were granted to new industries which will be manufacturing clothes, nails, chocolate, boxes and containers. Seventeen other loans were granted to other expanding industries.

Ministry holds Hijri year ceremony

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs Wednesday held religious ceremonies at the Al Hussein Grand Mosque in Amman on the eve of the anniversary of the new Hijri year (Islamic year).

Among the main speakers was Sheikh Izzeddin Al Tamimi, minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, who dwelt on the meaning of the Hijri. The Hijri reminds Muslims of the Prophet's migration to Medina from Mecca to intensify efforts for unity. The minister called on Muslims to strengthen their solidarity. "Today the Arabs and Muslims bid farewell to another Hijri year and tomorrow they start a new year. They are all called on, individuals, groups and nations, to plan for all that is good and beneficial for their nation and end their differences and divisions," said the minister.

He called on Muslims to receive the new year with more confidence and more determination, to return to God, and to work in concert for the common good.

The speaker drew attention to the need for Muslims to join ranks to liberate the holy places in occupied Jerusalem.

For the new Hijri year on Thursday all government departments and public institutions will be closed.

Writer says world is fed up with conflict and more likely now to support peace talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — A distinguished Arab writer said in a lecture that the Arab-Israeli peace talks are another form of struggle against the Israeli enemy and could not be interpreted as the end of the road, unless positive results are achieved.

Speaking at the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in Amman, Lutfi Khoulfi said that negotiations and political talks complement the military struggle and should be considered as another way for Arab countries to achieve their aspiration.

Drawing a comparison between the current talks and Egypt's talks with Israel, at the U.S.-sponsored Camp David Accords, Mr. Khoulfi said that Egypt failed to use all the elements of negotiations available and thus failed to achieve a better deal.

When Egypt was negotiating with Israel Mr. Khoulfi, a noted Egyptian intellectual, said that it was not enjoying the support of its sister Arab states. But now, the Arab countries negotiating with Israel are backed by Arab World as well as Europe and the United States, to certain degree. Therefore, the talks are expected to get better results.

Furthermore, Mr. Khoulfi said, the international situation is different from the days of Camp David and the world is entering a "new world order" which requires the implementation of international legitimacy.

The world is inclined to help both sides to achieve a lasting peace because no one is interested in more tension or conflict in the Middle East. The writer added that weapons are a heavy burden for all countries.

Indeed the writer noted that the world tries to avoid four big dangers. They are: Nuclear war; regional conflict; poverty; and pollution. A just solution to the Middle East problem and an end



Lutfi Khoulfi

to the Arab-Israeli conflict, Mr. Khoulfi said, falls within the framework of preventing the proliferation of weapons and the pollution of the environment, which all nations are trying to avert.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Mohammad Al Jalous at Baladina Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Iraqi artist Mohyee Khalifeh at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of Air France posters at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings, Arab calligraphy, handicrafts and traditional costumes at the University of Jordan's Faculty of Education.

FIELD TRIP

- ★ Field trip, organised by the Friends of Archaeology, to Umm Al Jimal's Byzantine houses and farmsteads. Departure on Friday at 9:00 a.m. from Amra Hotel parking lot in private cars.

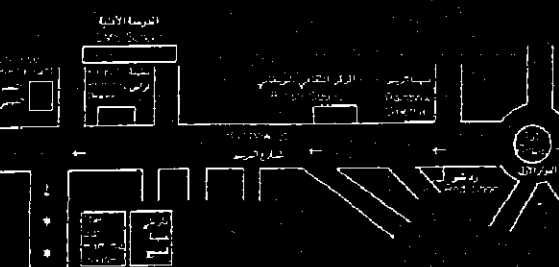
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Clear choices

IT IS a moment of truth for Israeli Prime Minister-elect Yitzhak Rabin, and it might have come sooner than he had expected or hoped for.

One day before President Chaim Herzog is expected to nominate him to form the next Israeli government, the Labour Party leader was forced to choose between left and right, between moderation and extremism.

Meretz, a leftist party that controls 12 seats in the Knesset, finds Labour's coalition guidelines unsatisfying. It wants Labour to be less ambiguous about its intentions to freeze settlements in the occupied territories and grant autonomy to Palestinians.

Right-wing Tsomet finds that unacceptable. Rabin should have no quarrel about whose demands to heed.

In his attempt to form a broad coalition, Rabin should not abandon principles for the sake of power. While minority governments often lack the mandate with which to bring about major policy changes, broad coalitions that do not have clear agendas are equally handicapped.

Labour's election campaigns promised to freeze settlement and to vigorously pursue peace with the Palestinians. Rabin's manoeuvres to gain power should stay clear of abandoning principles.

If Tsomet opposes these policy objectives, Mr. Rabin can still form a government without its support. He can still take the helm of Israeli politics by inviting Arab parties in the Knesset to join his cabinet. These parties are potential allies of his and certain allies of peace. Unfortunately, however, this is too much to expect from any Israeli leader.

On the other hand, if indeed Mr. Rabin is genuinely interested in the long-term security of his own country and people then he should have no doubts over who could serve the objective of creating an atmosphere of peace and co-existence by granting the Palestinian people their rights.

But the question is: Can or will Rabin rise to that level?

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily criticised the government's plans to allow the Non-Jordanian workers more time to have their work permits renewed and said that priority for jobs should go to unemployed Jordanians. Nazla, who usually tackles domestic affairs, noted that the problem of unemployment in the Kingdom is being aggravated every day with the graduation of skilled workers or university students and there was no need for non-Jordanians to be allowed to stay and take the place of Jordanian jobseekers. The writer said that the Ministry of Labour's decision to allow non-Jordanians to have their papers right and to renew their work permits after the payment of the fees and the fines was depriving the Jordanian workers of the chance to work. Noting that nearly 130,000 Jordanians are out of work the writer said that it was unreasonable to allow thousands of non-Jordanians to stay on and take the place of the needy unemployed. He said the majority of the non-Jordanians living and working in the Kingdom are non technicians and unskilled employed mainly in the menial jobs that even unskilled non-Jordanians can handle. The writer called on the Ministry of Labour to follow closely the regulations and laws under the constitution which give the Jordanians the right to work. He said that the commercial and economic sectors are also called on to help the government find employment for the Jordanian citizens. The writer urged the Ministry of Labour to reconsider its decision about the non-Jordanian workers.

The assassination of the Algerian president has triggered worldwide condemnation and drew expression of dismay on the part of all world leaders and the Arab masses, said Sawt Al Shaab daily Wednesday. The paper said that those condemning the assassination do not approve of acts of terrorism which can by no means serve the causes of any groups or nations but rather contribute to further acts of violence and disturbance. The paper stressed that the Algerian regime's campaigns of arrests among the Islamists groups in the country and the absence of democracy in Algeria might have prompted the extremists elements to opt for violence. The assassination itself is a crime which one cannot condone because it would not achieve anything for the murderers or those behind them, noted the daily. Jordan believes that violence is bound to beget violence and that the killing of a leader would open the door for a cycle of violence that cannot easily end, especially if that leader has a long history of struggle against the colonialist powers and had helped the Algerians attain independence, the paper added. It said that Jordan could only offer its condolences on the death of Boudiaf and its experiment in democracy that could be copied by Algeria and another Arab states.



M. KAHIL

Lockerbie crisis weakens Qadhafi

By Paul Eadie
Reuters

TRIPOLI — Libya's crisis with the West over the alleged bombing of an American airliner has weakened Muammar Qadhafi but the mercurial revolutionary leader still maintains a tight grip on the country he has ruled for 23 years.

"The probability of a change in the short term is small. But the possibility has increased. The ingredients which could create a change have increased," a European ambassador said.

Diplomats believe the West's demand for the surrender of two men accused of blowing up a Pan Am plane over the Scottish town of Lockerbie in 1988 is forcing Mr. Qadhafi to choose between two options highly dangerous to his survival.

If he hands the men over for trial in the United States or Britain, he risks losing the loyalty of the intelligence services and "revolutionary committees" which keep him in power. The West is sure the men are security agents.

If Mr. Qadhafi persists in defying the West, however, he risks a tightening of United Nations sanctions and a rising tide of dissent among ordinary Libyans

no longer willing to suffer for their ruler's dreams of world revolution.

The U.N. Security Council imposed a ban on flights to or from Libya and an arms embargo on April 15. The next step could be trade restrictions, even a ban on Libya's vital oil exports, which could cripple the already limping economy.

Diplomats studying the moody and unpredictable Libyan leader believe his dilemma over Lockerbie is part of a deeper crisis over the direction of the country and his own future.

Mr. Qadhafi was able to promote his revolutionary causes in the 1970s and 1980s, supporting subversive groups from Northern Ireland to the south Pacific, because the Soviet Union found him a convenient nuisance in the cold war against the United States.

The Soviet Union no longer exists, and Mr. Qadhafi finds himself along with Fidel Castro of Cuba and Kim Il Sung of North Korea as one of a lonely of ageing revolutionaries who have not yet accepted that the world has changed.

"The basic alternative in Libya is whether they are going to recognise or not that it is time for change," a Western diplomat

said. "Will Qadhafi survive the crisis or not? In other words, will Qadhafi be capable of leading a transition?"

He and other envoys can see, however, no immediate threat to Mr. Qadhafi's dominance of Libya. "He is very much a one-man band. He uses all the rest as puppets," the European ambassador said.

The "revolutionary committees," which penetrate every workplace and all the hundreds of "people's committees" which nominally run Libya, make sure the right people are in charge and take the right decisions. The intelligence services take care of any opposition.

The diplomats are mostly sceptical of rumours of splits between Mr. Qadhafi and other members of the tight group of young officers and revolutionaries who seized power, with him, in 1969, such as his nominal second in command Abdul Salam Jalloud.

"Given the circumstances and the enormous strain on the decision-making people, they are fairly united. There may be tendencies but I don't think anything that could menace the authority of Qadhafi," one envoy said.

The 85,000-strong armed

forces appear ill-placed to seize power. The army has 2,000 tanks and the air force more than 50 planes but most of the equipment is in store because troops lack skills to operate or maintain it properly.

A split between the revolutionary leadership and chiefs of the intelligence services looks more plausible and rumours have swirled of an attempted coup some weeks ago and the sacking of senior security officers.

Diplomats say it is not impossible that Mr. Qadhafi will move with the tide of world events and make radical policy changes, abandoning anti-Western agitation and doctrinaire socialism, if he believes this would keep him in power.

"For him it is more important to survive than to keep his ideology. Once he knows he will survive, who knows, he may not change 100 per cent but right now, the pressure is immense," one ambassador said.

Ideological changes will win him no friends in the West, however, unless he hands the two Lockerbie suspects over for trial. It is not yet clear whether he is willing to confront his intelligence services and take that decision.

Creeping federalism: Europe has had enough

By Sally Jacobsen
The Associated Press

LISBON, Portugal — After years of creeping federalism, the European Community has had enough.

Now, the ogre is a European superstate and there's a new fashion with an unpronounceable name: Subsidiarity.

It means that small is beautiful, and that each nation should take care of as much of its own business as possible.

In this way, the 12-nation trading bloc hopes to recover from Denmark's unsettling rejection of far-reaching plans for a European union in the coming years.

At the end of a two-day summit last weekend, Jacques Delors, the EC's chief executive who has been accused of building a European superstate at his headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, sounded almost contrite.

Mr. Delors, a French socialist, vowed to give back to national and local governments some of the considerable powers he has amassed over the years.

"This can reassure the citizens of Europe that Europe is for

them and not for a minority," he said.

The community leaders, some fearing their own voters or parliament might follow the Danish lead, made it clear themselves that things have changed.

Their final communiqué emphasised limits on the powers of Brussels' executive agency as a way, it said, of bringing the new "union close to its citizens."

"... The importance of the identities of the nations that are part of the union must be forcefully reflected in the community's actions and behaviour," it said.

It was a big change for Mr. Delors.

In the 1980s, he infuriated Britain's then-prime minister, Margaret Thatcher, by predicting that 80 per cent of laws in individual nations would one day emanate from Brussels.

On June 27, he complained to reporters that some governments were trying to force Brussels to do their work.

Take hens' feet, he said. A few months ago, he related, the EC was working on veterinary regulations, and some nations asked guidelines, eurocrats to decide "at what moment hens' feet should be cut off."

His bureaucrats, he said, "refused to say."

By spelling out that national governments — not EC bureaucrats — are responsible for such decisions as cutting off hens' feet, the leaders hope to save their union accord.

The agreement, negotiated last December in the Dutch town of Maastricht, would create a common foreign and security policy and a single currency by 1999.

All 12 nations must ratify the treaty before it can go into effect early next year. Only Ireland has so far approved the deal.

Danish Prime Minister Poul Schluter, unsure how to sell his nation on European unity, called the leaders' decision to limit Mr. Delors' powers "historic."

Anibal Cavaco Silva, the Portuguese prime minister who hosted the summit, expressed hope that the "very clear position on subsidiarity is going to help Denmark."

The term subsidiarity, coined by Eurocrats means that the EC's executive agency should only

handle matters that national and local governments cannot.

Mr. Delors said the central authority would continue negotiating trade agreements with the United States and other nations on behalf of all 12 nations.

It would continue running a complex and costly agricultural programme for Europe's 10 million farmers and the removal by year's end of remaining barriers to the free flow of money, goods, services and people within the community.

But Mr. Delors said the EC's executive would act in the areas of health, education and culture only when it could add to the nations' efforts.

On environment and social policy, Eurocrats, will set minimum standards and let the members decide whether to do more, he said.

Finally, he pledged to review community-wide regulations and decide whether some should be repealed.

Said British Prime Minister John Major: "If it can be scrapped, it should be scrapped."

Amato government faces uphill struggle

By Mary Beth Sheridan
The Associated Press

ROME — After 84 days of heated arguing, tortuous bargaining and backroom dealing, Italian politicians have finally managed to cobble together a new government.

Now the hard part begins.

Premier Giulio Amato, a socialist nicknamed "Dr. Subtle" for his political talent, was sworn in June 28 to head the country's 51st postwar government. But no amount of subtlety enabled him to attract new allies to the four-party coalition of his predecessor, Giulio Andreotti.

The four parties, punished by a protest vote in the April 5-6 elections, hold only a tiny majority in Italy's fragmented parliament.

Pundits said the government could collapse as soon as it considers urgently needed but unpopular economic reforms.

"One must ask oneself to what point the forces of the coalition will back (Amato). They are nervous to the point of panic of seeing their public support reduced even further," Lucio Colletti, a political philosophy professor, wrote in a recent column in the newspaper Corriere Della Sera.

Political patronage — jobs in state industry, pay raises and a generous pension and state health system — have long been used to win and retain votes in Italy. But Mr. Amato's government takes over as the tide is running dry.

After a spectacular economic boom, symbolised by omnipre-

sent Giorgio Armani jackets, Fendi bags and pricey fish restaurants, the nation now faces drastic belt-tightening. It is saddled with a ballooning public deficit, high interest rates and nearly six per cent inflation.

Without tough measures, Italy risks missing out on the fruits of European economic union later in the decade.

Mr. Amato, a former treasury minister, has pledged to cut out the deficit, projected to hit \$133 billion this year, as well as pursue the fight against the increasingly powerful Mafia. He also says he will seek reform of the postwar political system, under broad attack for inefficiency and excessive patronage.

As his first reform, the new premier trimmed the number of

government ministries from 32 to 24. About half of the ministers were new faces. Among those leaving the scene was Mr. Andreotti, a seven-time premier and the dean of Italian politics.

But the cracks in his government alliance showed immediately. On June 25, the dominant Christian Democrats called for a cabinet comprised of non-partisans in a bid to respond to public demands for reform. The proposal was opposed by their three coalition partners, the Socialists, Liberals and Social Democrats.

Meanwhile, opposition leader Achille Occhetto of the Democratic Party of the Left, the former Communists, cheerfully announced a season of "warfare in parliament."

LETTERS

Boudiaf is also to blame for Algerian ills

To the Editor:

WHILE I don't condone violence as means of attaining political goals, I disagree with the Jordan Times' portrayal of the assassinated Algerian leader Mohammed Boudiaf in Tuesday's editorial (Men of courage Come to the fore!), which absolved the late president of any blame for the Algerian ills. While the paper (understandably) strongly condemned the assassination, it would have done more justice (to the Algerian people) had it also strongly condemned the government's crackdown on the Islamic movements and its supporters during the last year.

Murder is murder and no one can accept criminal acts. But the political assassination of Mr. Boudiaf did not come out of a vacuum and could have been a result of his leading role in the brutal crackdown on the Islamists whose mere "crime" was that they won the primary parliamentary elections when the Algerian people used their right to vote democratically. (We must note here, however, that his murder remains a mystery.) If Mr. Boudiaf, as the editorial suggested, was a "symbol of hope for national reconciliation," he would not have accepted the position of president of the High State Council which cancelled the free elections. One cannot condemn the people of Algeria if they chose the Islamic movement to represent them in parliament. And one should not condone what the Algerian government did in arresting and killing large numbers of people who want to freely express their will.

The editorial said that the late Mr. Boudiaf decided to head the State Council only after the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) "threatened to scrap democracy and pluralism and replace it with another one-party rule." The editorial overlooked the fact the FIS did not even have a chance to take power and to prove whether it could fulfill people's aspirations or not. So how could one claim they were ready to scrap a democracy that was not even there in the first place?

It is not in our position to condone the undemocratic practices of the late Mr. Boudiaf's government (or that of other Arab countries), especially that we in Jordan reject anything less than free expression. Jordan experienced the democratic victory of the Islamic movement in parliament, but because it were given a chance, there has been no sign of any threats that it would take over the country or practise violence. Only because Algeria decided to brutally stifle the Islamists and their supporters (whose support also did not come out of a vacuum), did violence break out. (We see the same violence breaking out in Egypt for similar reasons.)

Is it not ironic and curious that Mr. Boudiaf, who, as the editorial states, rejected one-party rule, would accept to head a government that suppresses the will of the people no matter what their will may be? The editorial said that the late president wanted to prevent the one-party rule of the FIS, but it did not mention that he prevented it by imposing martial law, and therefore banning political freedoms in the country by imprisoning leaders who represented a considerable portion of society. These leaders, such as Abbasi Madani and Ali Belhaj, could have been (and still could be) executed for their political, social, economic and religious beliefs, because their views contradicted a sector of Algerian society.

The only way to stop the bloodshed and injustice in Algeria is through democracy and free democratic elections for the people to decide for themselves who should lead their country as Monday's editorial (Room for democracy) suggested. And if the Islamists won — perhaps because the secularists did not want to participate fully in the democratic process as had happened the first time when their voter turnout was low — so be it. This is what democracy is all about.

Sana Atiyeh,
Amman.

Putting the record straight

To the Editor

Your report "London based Jordan International Bank keeps top Amman bankers in dilemma" (Jordan Times June 8, 1992) was unfair in putting things out of context from my brief interview with the writer of the article. In order to set the record straight, I have the following comments to make:

- Jordan Kuwait Bank (JKB) is fully committed to Jordan International Bank (JIB). Our commitment to JIB has been evidenced in the fact that we were one of the very few shareholders who seized every opportunity to increase their shareholding in JIB. This has been clearly demonstrated in Oct. 1991 when we bought 100,000 shares from other Jordanian banks who wanted to liquidate their shareholding in JIB and also in December 1991 when we again increased our share in the paid-up capital from £700,000 to £1,050,000 which subsequently increased our shareholding in JIB to 7 per cent.

- JKB is not an international group such as the Arab Bank or a part of an international group such as Arab Bank Corporation (ABC), British Bank of the Middle East (BBME), Citic and Grindlays and we have no offshore units of our own such as Arab-Jordan Investment Bank (AJIB) or Al Ahli Bank. JIB is our only outlet to the outside world in which we own a stake.

- My general comment on Pan-Arab consortiums such as The Arab Investment Company (TAIC) and Gulf International Bank (GIB) or Arab European consortiums such as Union of Arab and French Banks (UBAF) and Arab Bank for International Investment (BAII) is not in any way related to a homogeneous entity such as JIB which satisfies a basic and fundamental need for the local Jordanian banks i.e. to have a presence in a major financial centre such as London carrying the Jordanian flag. It is worth mentioning here that the Egyptian banks are currently considering to have an all Egyptian consortium bank in one of the major financial centres following on the Jordanian example.

Mohammad M. Jamjoum,
General Manager,
Jordan Kuwait Bank,
Amman.

Facts vs. misconceptions

To the Editor:

ACCORDING to the article "Fertility rate drops among Jordanian women" (Jordan Times, June 8 1992) Dr. Hammoudeh attributed the fertility decline mainly to breast feeding practices. The role of breast feeding as a means of child spacing needs to be clarified otherwise the reader may assume that any lactating mother who practices breast feeding to any degree may be protected from pregnancy. The situation is more complex. Three conditions must be met in order for breast feeding to have a direct impact on fertility.

— The mother needs to practice exclusive breast feeding, offering her infant her breast milk day and night, without introducing supplements like formula or sugar water.
— The mother is amenorrheic, i.e. does not experience vaginal bleeding for at least 56 days after delivery.
— The infant is less than six months of age.

If the mother follows these guidelines, then her risk of pregnancy is 2 per cent. The key is the practice of exclusive breast feeding for the duration of four to six months immediately after the birth of her child.

Leah Sawalha,
Regency Palace Hotel,
Amman.

Occupied Jerusalem hosts 1st Palestinian Film Festival

By Ian M. Rose
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Mohammad Barghuthi usually goes home exhausted from his dishwasher's job. But this week, he went to the movies every day, indulging his dreams of becoming a director while attending Occupied Jerusalem's first Palestinian Film Festival.

The festival was Barghuthi's first chance to watch Palestinian films because movie houses in the occupied lands, Jerusalem and Arab cities in Israel have all closed in recent years.

"These films rarely had contact with their public. We wanted to make possible a meeting between the people and their cinema," said festival producer George Khleifi.

The weeklong festival

which ended Saturday screened 25 films at East Jerusalem's Hakawati and Kasbah theatres, accompanied by seminars and round-table discussions.

More than a dozen Palestinian directors came, including some from abroad who saw their old homes for the first time since childhood.

Director Marwan Salameh, whose parents left Safed in 1948, was born in Algeria and

has worked in Germany for the last 16 years. Last year he obtained German citizenship, making it possible to visit Israel.

"This is an incredible opportunity for me. This is my first time in Jerusalem, in Palestine. At the end of the week I will visit Safed, my parents' home, Salameh said.

Most films are documentaries and several

deal with the nearly five-year Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation.

Palestinian Diaries, in which three young West Bank Palestinians filmed their lives, portrays the Palestinian experience under military occupation.

The movie drew rave reviews, but also prompted questions about whether Palestinian film makers are

too preoccupied with one issue.

"We have lived under occupation for 25 years. There are other things happening here besides the nationalist struggle," Sajadeh Abu Yusef, a young Palestinian woman, told directors at a round table discussion last Monday.

While many agreed that films need to deal with broad-

er issues, others stressed that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is the fire that fuels the art.

Some directors complained about obstacles they face as Palestinian artists.

Ziad Darwish, who is from the Israeli coastal town of Akko and lives in Jerusalem, said his films were refused entry into an Egyptian Film Festival because he holds Israeli citizenship.

Darwish also said his name does not appear on films dealing with the uprising because he fears harassment by the Israeli army.

Other directors told of Israeli soldiers confiscating film, damaging video equipment and barring Palestinians from filming in the occupied territories. Some said it was difficult to get Western companies to produce and distribute their work.

Many said it was important to promote interest in film among the Palestinians. With the cinemas closed, Palestinians usually watch videos at home, and the standard fare are Hollywood imports or Egyptian love stories.

Barghuthi's modest claim to fame in Palestinian cinema is singing a traditional wedding song in Michel Khleifi's movie Wedding in Galilee.

The film tells the story of a Palestinian elder who pleads with the Israeli military authorities to lift martial law in his village for twenty-four hours so he can marry off his son with pomp. The regional military governor agrees, but only on conditions that he and his officers be invited as guests of honour.

Israeli Arabs were under military rule until the mid-1960s.

"I started as a singer, next I want to be an actor and eventually a director," said Barghuthi, who is from the West Bank town of Ramallah and washes dishes in an East Jerusalem hotel.

For Barghuthi, the festival has set his mind to wandering. What sort of film would he make?

"A Palestinian story," he said. "With Palestinian actors, Palestinian directors and Palestinian producers. And, yes, probably a nationalist story."

Kuwait bridges gulf in war satire

By Assem Abdul Mohsen
Reuters

KUWAIT — Iraqi forces rolled into Kuwait so easily in 1990 — it can now be revealed — because Kuwait's security consisted of one policeman and a lone soldier.

That, at any rate, is the Gulf War as seen through the eyes of Kuwaiti actors whose biting satire about Iraqis and their occupation of Kuwait has been playing to packed houses at Kuwait City's Dasmah Theatre since February.

Almost 10 months after the Iraqi occupation ended, Kuwaitis are revelling in a

night of Saddam Hussein-bashing on stage where the Iraqi president and his army are the villains of the piece.

The play also gets in a few licks at U.S. President George Bush and at Arabs who sided with Iraq in what ultimately was a defeat for Baghdad.

Audiences guffaw loudly when an actor reveals that chemical weapons which Iraq threatened to employ but never did were stuffed with a mixture of palm dates and tobacco.

They also applaud when an actor portraying an Iraqi officer asks the whereabouts

of Kuwait's security forces and is told Kuwait has only one policeman and a single soldier.

The play, Saif Al Arab, meaning sword of the Arabs — a name Iraqi people lavished upon their leader during the seven-month crisis, chides Mr. Bush for delaying action against the occupying Iraqis.

Claiming that it took Mr. Bush an inordinately long five months to prepare for battle one actor tells another: "Call Thatcher, the Americans have kept us waiting for five months."

Then British Prime Minis-

ter Margaret Thatcher, who led her country's campaign to force Argentina out of the Falkland Islands, had been quick to demand action to oust Iraq.

The two principal actors, Abdul Hussein Abdul Reda and Hayat al Fahed, also lash out at Arab leaders who showed sympathy for Iraq.

The play is not a coherent drama but a series of sketches that depicts the Iraqis as fascists and robots.

Kuwaitis who spent much of the war abroad also get a drubbing. They are said to have been "enjoying themselves while we sweated it out

here."

The play's heroes are those who stayed behind, estimated at about a quarter of the country's 600,000 Kuwaitis.

They are shown as resolutely resisting Baghdad's efforts to assimilate them after Iraq declared Kuwait to be its 19th province.

"How come I go to bed a Kuwaiti and wake up in the morning as an Iraqi?" an old man shouts at his Iraqi tormentors.

Kuwaitis' social habits, such as their rush to study abroad even for the most menial of occupations, also are not spared.

An Iraqi officer trying to locate two brothers is told by their father: "They are studying abroad... one to become a barber and the second specialising as a messenger."

The play ends with Kuwaitis paying tribute to their emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, and with a few dollops of criticism for the Iraqi president.

"You have not liberated Palestine and you were driven out of Kuwait," the Iraqi president is told in reply to his war-time claim that the attack on Kuwait was a step towards defeating Israel.

Treat women kindly, Hemingway told friend

LONDON (AP) — Ernest Hemingway, the American writer who liked to be regarded as a tough guy, once told a friend not to worry about women but "just try and be kind" to them.

Brief excerpts from letters that Hemingway wrote to Austrian writer Pieter Viertel were published recently in an auction sale catalog.

Hemingway said in one letter: "Never worry about women. Just try and be kind and good and think in their

head and make them happy. If they are bitches you can always dump them. Most women aren't bitches except when they are made so by men."

"Man should do his work and love that the most, then his woman and his children, then his friends," Hemingway said.

He wrote in the same letter: "You can beat all raps except death. And you can probably beat that if you write well enough."

Sotheby's expect up to

£50,000 (\$64,750) for 35 letters that Hemingway sent between 1948 and 1958 to Viertel.

The Austrian wrote the screenplays of two of his novels, *The Sun Also Rises* in 1957 and in 1958, *The Old Man And The Sea*.

Hemingway told Viertel he was surprised to find Hollywood film people were a "rough mob," and he complained of being "sick" of having to spend a winter with movie stars and producers.

He also objected to everybody making money out of *The Sun Also Rises* except himself, but he liked Ava Gardner, who starred in it.

"The letters were mostly written from Hemingway's homes in Cuba and Ketchum, Idaho, but also from Spain, Kenya and elsewhere. They reflect his preoccupations with war, shooting, fishing, boxing, bullfighting, hard drinking and women," said Sotheby's expert, Peter Beal. "They are generally unbut-

toned, outspoken, often profane, substantial and newsy," Mr. Beal said.

In one letter Hemingway tells a typical fisherman's story of the one that got away.

"He wrote: 'Hooked one dolphin that jumped off that was the biggest have ever seen... you just hold them until something breaks (usually their jaw). Could, of course, be the angler. If we hook anything really gigantic I plan to have \$1,000 in fold-

ing money to get the captain to slow down. Otherwise on too big stuff will just figure to lose the gear...'

Hemingway feared ill-health and expressed regret that advancing age sapped his vigour for life. In 1961 he shot himself shortly before his 63rd birthday.

Viertel, who is selling the letters together with a few others from Hemingway's wife, Mary, lives in Switzerland with his British actress wife, Deborah Kerr.

Wacky world of Wimbledon press conferences

By Stephen Wilson
The Associated Press

WIMBLEDON, England — "Are you addicted to butter?" "Have you brought an iron with you?" "Are you going to show all your fans your hair before you win?" Even presidential news conferences aren't this tough — or this silly. But such is the line of questioning that Wimbledon competitors are facing this year.

Andre Agassi and Monica Seles have emerged as the favourite fodder for Britain's tabloid press, as their back-to-back appearances in the interview room attest.

For the record, Agassi had defeated Andrei Chesnokov 5-7, 6-1, 7-5, 7-5, and Seles had downed Sabine Appelmans 6-3, 6-2.

Enough for the tennis. For the nitty-gritty, here is a sampling from their news conferences.

Let's start with Agassi:

Q — Andre, can you clear up the mystery about your cap? There is a suggestion that you're losing your hair.

A — Oh, really? Just my lucky white hat. I wore it in Paris and it treated me well, so I'm hoping it will carry me through. Plus I'm growing out the sides of my hair. It's tough to keep it with the bandana. I have to make sure I style it and keep it with the bandana so it behaves.

Q — There's been a number of stories in the papers here which suggest that you are losing your hair. Where do you think that comes from?

A — It comes from Britain.

Q — Are you going to show all your fans your hair before you win?

A — I'm sure I will. I'm sure I will play with the bandana here coming up soon.

Q — But you'll keep the hat on because it's lucky?

A — Yes, with the bandana.

Q — Why did you take your shirt off? You only got the girls more excited, more than they already were. (Agassi had tossed his shirt into the stands after his victory).

A — Are these questions for real?

Q — Have you brought an iron with you this year? (This query, an apparent reference to Agassi's rumpled clothes, elicited an especially puzzled expression).

A — An iron? Next question.

Q — How did you play, Andre?

A — Thank you. You're making it easy on me now ...

And now onto Seles:

Q — There are a lot of different theories as to whether you are saying anything when you grunt. There is a theory that you are saying "not me" or "money."

A — No. People are always going to try to turn around things. When you watch karate and judo, they make sounds... Because I put so much energy into the ball, the sound comes out. As I said, so many players do that, and I just don't know why it's me to make such a big fuss about it.

Q — What happened to the squeal that was in there? There used to be a squeal as well as a grunt. Is your voice changing?

A — Maybe as you grow older. Yes, it might be. I don't realise I'm doing it, and I don't like so much emphasis on it.

Q — So when the umpire says, "quiet please," you don't think he's talking to you?

A — No, definitely not. For sure not. You can ask them. If they would give me a warning or anything I would have to deal with it at that point. But it's never happened yet, and I don't think it will happen in this tournament either.

Q — Did you see a story in the papers this morning about you being apparently banned from wearing figure-hugging outfits? (A story in the tabloid today quoted an unidentified executive of the Italian sportswear firm Fila as saying, "I know it's not nice to say, but it's true — Monica has a big rear. She doesn't realise the limits of what she can wear.")

A — Figure hugging — well, I don't think so. When you come here, there is always some new revelations that haven't been revealed before, but I guess these are new. But I don't read the newspapers.

Q — One picture had you at the Prince party (after his rock concert). It had you with your leopard pants. They looked pretty figure hugging to me.

A — Yes, but me life off the court isn't anything to do with the tennis court. I think the gentleman asked if my tennis outfit is figure hugging, and I don't think so.

Q — They have told you not to wear figure hugging



Andre Agassi

outfits because your bottom's too big.

A — This is the first one. I don't know. You would have to vote on it to decide on it. I don't think it's anybody's business...

Q — Are you addicted to butter? (Another reference to the Today story, which quoted her as saying, "I eat butter on everything, even pizza — I must be addicted to the stuff.")

A — When you read quotes, you think I did say them, and I did not.

Q — What is your favourite food?

A — Everything. I like everything. I have nothing favourite.

Q — How about butter?

A — I like different kinds of food. You always try to pick on something. If I say I like Madonna, you will automatically say I idolise Madonna. That is a big difference idolising somebody and liking somebody. If I say I like butter, you will say I idolise butter, I can't live without it. That would make a great commercial, but I think you go a little bit too far, to extremes, with a few things.

Any more questions? Let's hope not.

BOOK REVIEWS

Profuse dispensation

The Middle East in Global Perspective
Edited by Judith Kipper and Harold H. Saunders
Westview Press, Oxford 1991, £13.50

The editors and some of the contributors of this American anthology of studies of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the "peace process" in fitful course since 1973 claim that a solution demands "new perspectives" instead of the traditional "mechanistic view of state-to-state relations" conducted by conventional diplomacy. It is argued that states must be seen as communities of people, that the economic and military power of nations is no longer paramount, and that the domestic popular role in foreign policy is becoming more important than "monolithic national interest" as interpreted by governments. Hence, in the formulation of Professor Pranger (American University), the "domestication of international politics and the internationalisation of domestic politics in the Middle East," and local communal conflict may be "immune to external treatment."

It seems certainly true that, whereas Pitt or Metternich could pursue foreign policies of their own devising, making war or alliances or peace treaties according to their own view of the national interest with scant regard to public opinion, the public being ignorant or indifferent and in any case unrepresented, nowadays not only diplomats and American academics are informed and articulate but nearly everybody else is as well. Public pressure as a factor is not of course all that new, but it is undoubtedly in operation in the Arab-Israeli conflict, relentlessly bearing upon Arab and Israeli leaders, and indeed Americans too. Thus the solution of the problem (if there is one) is not in negotiation but in politics. According to a forthright contribution by Meron Benvenisti (West Bank Data Project), an "intercommunal dispute" of this nature and magnitude, "a civil war that by now has become a way of life, an endemic and organic condition," is simply beyond diplomacy, and the "traditional government-to-government peace process" is bound of fail. The solution to such a conflict lies in some sort of reconciliation of opposing local communities, which governments and private international influence can promote.

Harold Saunders, one of the editors of these studies and himself formerly a senior diplomat in the State Department entangled in Middle Eastern issues for 20 years, is equally persuaded that the way ahead is a change of attitudes, "to change each people's perception of the other." Just how to bring about such a change, so devoutly to be wished? In some degree, he suggests, President Sadat's astonishing visit to Jerusalem in 1977, a "forcing political act," did change attitudes. And yet we are back at negotiations, acrimonious and barren, "national interest" pitted against "national interest." Arab injury and humiliation versus Israeli security, each side agitated, according to Pranger, by "strong, subjective perceptions of victimisation."

Professor Rashid Khalidi (Chicago University) analyses the extraordinary difficulties for such a "fragmented polity" as the PLO to conduct coherent policies. Dr. Naomi Chazan (Hebrew University) describes the Knesset and other democratic institutions in Israel which constitute an "inherently precarious and unwieldy" system in a society riven by cultural, economic and religious differences. William Miller explains the developing role of the U.S. Congress in making foreign policy, together with USAID, the CIA, military aid groups and other authorities, in addition to the Departments of State and Defence and the White House, as well as an explosion of public awareness of the Middle East, which used to be a distant desert with camels and oil. And His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan contributes an eloquent plea for support for the PLO and for "rehabilitation, reconstruction and reconciliation." If only reconciliation were conceivable...

One more dispensation of wise words, a bit profuse and diffuse, by thoughtful scholars.

A.R.H. Kellas

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, July 2

8:30 The Simpsons
Homer will be admitted to a mental hospital because of his pink shirt.

9:10 Civil Wars.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

Opposites Attract

Starring: Barbara Eden and John Forsythe.

A love story between two politicians running against each other.

Friday, July 3

8:30 Please Don't Eat The Daisies

My Eldest Child

Why Mr. Nash was angry with his wife?

9:10 E.N.G

False Fire

10:00 News In English

10:20 Inspector Morse

Saturday, July 4

8:30 Super Bloopers.

9:00 Encounter

The programme hosts Prof. Edouard Saeed of Columbia University who talks about the struggle to boost the Palestinian identity.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Mini Series

Naked Under Capricorn

Davis is attacked by robbers who take his belongings and throw him in the desert. Davis is saved by Jeff, who later has an accident. After the accident he gives up his horses and belongings to his friend Davis.

Sunday, July 5

8:30 Wings

To save his brother Joe from trouble with the police, Brian courts the police-women.

9:10 Documentary-Unknown Australia

Distant Shores

The mixture of races in the islands keeps the original inhabitants keen to preserve

their identity.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Mini Series.

Davis is saved by a tribe of the original residents of the place. Relations between Davis and the tribe get warmer, but Davis' wife, Monica, finds difficulty in adapting to the new environment.

Monday, July 6

8:30 Close To Home

Matters Of Decree

James and Helen find that they are still married.

9:10 Perfect Henry

New Drama Series

10:00 News In English

10:20 Gold

Tuesday, July 7

8:30 Acropolis Now

The Trouble With Mothers

A delegate from the municipal council visits the cafe to make sure that arrangements for the annual party are going well.

9:10 Palace Guard

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film

Whatever Happened To

Starring Vanessa Redgrave. A powerful psychological drama on a love-hate relationship between two famous sisters who were movie stars.

Wednesday, July 8

8:30 Saved By The Bell

A dancing contest is won by Screech and Lisa.

9:00 Wednesday Forum

9:30 Man Of The People

10:00 News In English

10:20 Till We Meet Again

The sparkling Music Halls of Paris before World War I, the glamour of Hollywood in the Thirties, and the opulence of Champagne's finest vineyard form the setting for this spectacular six-hour mini-series. Based on Judith Krantz's novel Till We Meet Again, it follows the lives and loves of three generations of the De Lancel Champagne dynasty.

The Langley syndrome

By E. Yaghi

Various societies meet and deal with old age in different ways. Most often, the more industrialised the country, the less socially integrated people tend to be and family ties disintegrate. Many of the elderly in such countries are abandoned or forced to live in homes for the old where only associates are either those who care for them or other occupants with the same or similar conditions as theirs. With industrial and technological advancements, Jordan has begun to experience some of the growing pains of industrial and post-industrial countries. Many children are faced with the responsibility of either caring for their parents or placing them in a home. Although tradition, religion and other members of society are apt to frown on forsaking the aged, nevertheless, there has been an increase in such practice. The more fortunate of these citizens of the "golden years" live out the rest of their days with their children and grandchildren in a setting of love and care.

What is it like to be elderly? "Eighty years old!" the great Catholic poet Claudel wrote. "No eyes left, no ears, no teeth, no wind! And when all is said and done, how astonishingly well one does without them!" But one such man by the name of Langley and his brother Homer, did not fare so well. Langley had been a former concert pianist and his 70-year-old brother Homer was once an admiralty lawyer. They lived alone in a brown-stone house on upper Fifth Avenue which at one time had been part of a fashionable neighbourhood but later became part of Harlem.

"Don't worry, Homer. You may be blind and partially paralyzed, but I'm going to play the piano for you until you get well. I'll keep you on a diet of buns and oranges. Soon you will be able to see again! I'm saving all the daily newspapers so when you gain your sight back, you can read everything you missed!" Langley shouted as he patted his brother on his shoulder.

But Langley saved other things as well and his house almost burst with rubbish which filled it from roof to basement. The halls of their house became lined on both sides with bundled newspaper, leaving narrow passageways which were loaded with booby traps that the pianist had devised to catch unwanted intruders such as mice or rats. It is debatable as to the reason why Langley accumulated such a vast amount of garbage in his home. Perhaps it was because he had the feeling that everything once useful should be preserved including his own body, or perhaps in a sense, it was the great longing that he had to actually restore his poor brother's sight, thinking that when this phenomenon occurred, both brothers would be miraculously transformed back to an earlier stage in their lives.

Usually, Homer was content to be quite obedient about the whole affair, and since he couldn't see after all, the growing mounds of litter never seemed to bother him. He would sit for hours in his arm chair as quiet as a lizard on a

rock in the sun and dream about his former days when he was an admiralty lawyer in his prime, all the while serenaded by the strains of Langley's musical masterpieces. Each night when the sun had sunk for below the horizon and night owls awoke for their routine hunt, Langley would say, "come now, Homer. It's time for you supper. I'll go fix your tray and when you've finished, I take you up to your room so you may sleep."

Homer had come to depend entirely on his brother and seldom walked about more than a few steps by himself. "Nice playing, Langley. You still have that magic of yours. You're a fine pianist and your music takes me back to memories of times when we were young. Oh, those were the days, old brother. We thought they'd never end. We'd sing and dance forever and a day. We lived the life we chose and we fought and never lost. Those were the days, oh, those were the days. but look at us now! There's nothing left to live for!"

"Nonsense!" Langley retorted. "You have everything to live for! Soon you will see again. Say the truth, isn't your vision improving? Don't you see just a little bit?"

"Why yes, you're right!" Homer said nodding. "I can just barely make out a dim light. Do you think that the orange juice really is curing me?"

"Why of course! You just said yourself that you have begun to see a dim light. Come now, brother, since you've finished eating, it's time for you to get your rest."

Langley led his brother like a child up to his room, helped him undress, put on his pajamas and tucked him into his bed. "Sleep tight. I'll see you in the morning."

But when morning came, Langley failed to appear. Homer waited and waited and became hungrier. He yelled at the top of his weak lungs, "Langley, Langley, where are you? Have you forgotten me?"

Many days later, some unnamed person telephoned the police to report that there was a dead body in Langley's house. The police broke down the front door. One of them shouted to another, "This hall is impassable. We'll have to hoist a ladder to the second-story window!"

After the ladder was secured, they scrambled up and jumped into Homer's room. The officer in charge said, pointing, "Look, there's one of the brothers we were told about lying on the floor. It looks like he's been dead for ages. Wonder where the other one is?"

Homer lay motionless in a lump where he had starved to death waiting for his brother. Langley was nowhere to be found. After some delay, the police broke into the basement, chopped a hole in the basement roof and began throwing junk out of the house, top and bottom. It was eighteen days before they found Langley's body, gnawed by rats. He had been caught in one of his own booby traps and had died in a hallway just outside Homer's door. By the time Langley's body was found, the police had collected and the Sanitation Department had hauled away, 120 tonnes of rubbish, including 14 grand pianos, parts of a dismantled Model T Ford and stacks of newspapers.

Chase English from the land of French — intellectuals

By Francois Raitberger
Reuter

PARIS — France has finally recognised French as its official language.

"The language of the republic is French," says an article added to the constitution this week.

It should have gone without saying.

But intellectuals worried about the rampant advance of English in the land of Victor Hugo and Jean-Paul Sartre thought it wise to draw a linguistic defence line.

"There are more English words around in Paris now than there were German words during the (Nazi) occupation," philosopher Michel Serres complained recently.

Millions of foreign tourists, U.S. and Japanese technology, American films and television serials are furthering the invasion of English into daily life despite a largely ignored 1975 bill restricting the public use of non-French words.

Defying the ban on English-only advertising, a Paris chain store sells most of its

computers with instructions in English only. Non-English speakers are requested to call "la hot line" for explanations, philosopher Regis Debray said in a recent article.

Two of Paris' biggest department stores advertise largely in English during the summer to attract foreign tourists. The wholly French-owned airline Transport Aerien Interregional has renamed itself Tat-European Airlines.

Inroads by Anglo-Saxon culture, such as the increasingly dominant share of the French market of American films and books translated from English, are also raising concern.

The opening, within reach of the Paris Metro, of the giant Euro Disneyland entertainment park has been called a "cultural Chernobyl."

French scientists often publish their findings in English nowadays and some medical conferences staged in France are conducted in English.

Few people in Paris look for "un emploi," but many look for "un job." Business-

men speak of "le cash-flow," although they can be forgiven for not using the French equivalent "marge brute d'auto-financement."

"Language must evolve slowly and gracefully like a living being. This is going far too fast, it is terrible," complained writer Jean Dutoit, a member of the prestigious French Academy.

The academy, the language watchdog, fights an uphill battle to find French equivalents to English words. Some, like "logiciel" for software, have not.

The main French company linking western France to southern England is called "Britanny Ferries."

Awkward French words aping English, like "performant" (performing), are popping up all over the trendy world of television and advertising. Teenagers are coining their own Franglais, often without realising it.

"The French are speaking sham American... it must be uprooted from their brain by coercion," Dutoit said, calling for fines to enforce the

law on protection of the French language.

The government has set up official bodies to preserve and expand French and last month sponsored a wide-ranging study into the use of the language in daily life and the media.

Debray, a sixties radical and former adviser to President Francois Mitterrand, wants more action. He belongs to "groupe du manifeste," a bevy of resected intellectuals from across the political spectrum whose first success was in persuading parliamentarians to put the French language clause into the constitution.

The amendment was ratified, along with other constitutional changes to bring France into line with the Maastricht Treaty on European union, by a joint congress of both houses of parliament.

Conservative parliamentarians say the amendment will safeguard French should the European Community turn into a close federation seeking a single common language.

British men boost their confidence with cosmetic surgery

By Helen Smith
Reuter

LONDON — "I couldn't talk to women before," said Alex Sawenko. "I was always thinking 'she is focusing on my nose?'"

Last December, 33-year-old Sawenko, fearing his prominent nose would force him to spend the rest of his life alone, spent more than £2,000 (\$3,700) on an operation to make his nose smaller.

Now he has a steady girlfriend and is starting to think about getting married and starting a family.

Sawenko is one of a fast rising number of British men seeking cosmetic surgery.

The Britain Association of Aesthetic and Prosthetic Surgeons said about 20 per cent of cosmetic surgery patients are men. Ten years ago patients were almost exclusively women.

Increasingly, it seems, British men — never known for paying much attention to

their appearance — want to improve their looks and become more appealing to women.

Others believe a more handsome or youthful appearance will help their careers.

Most men want to change a single feature — usually a prominent nose or jutting ears.

But an increasing number are going for purely cosmetic operations. Dermabrasion, which removes the top layer of facial skin giving a smooth, flawless complexion, and liposuction, which sucks fat cells out of beer bellies or the "love handles" that gather on men's hips, are popular, cosmetic surgeons say.

Some British men have had pectoral implants to give them muscular chests, or calf implants to improve skinny legs.

Men who have been painfully shy throughout their lives because they were unhappy with their appearance can be transformed by

cosmetic surgery.

"Lots of patients have had no success with women because they lacked confidence," said Surgeon Edward Latimer-Sayer.

"Quite minor alterations can make a big difference to their lives because they become nicer to know, their body language is better because they have more confidence," he said.

Cosmetic surgeons say their business has boomed thanks to media stars who openly admit to having had surgery and flaunt its glamorous results.

People are much more aware of the possibilities of cosmetic surgery and there is less stigma attached to it than used to be, said Andrew Skanderowicz, secretary of the British Association of Cosmetic Surgeons.

But many British men are still acutely embarrassed at having their features altered. "Men are shy about it," said Cindy Jackson, who runs a network to provide in-

formation about cosmetic surgery in Britain. "They have made the decision and just want to know how to get on with it. Women want to discuss it much more."

Sawenko, a keen football player, told his team mates he was going into hospital for a sinus operation.

An earnest, quietly-spoken engineer, Sawenko said his brother who also has a prominent nose would never have it altered. "He doesn't need to, he has more confidence."

James Jackson, who had heavy bags removed from his eyes, deflects male criticism by making jokes about his vanity.

"I'm a light-hearted person so I ridicule myself," said Jackson, his eyes red and puffy from the recent operation.

Jackson, 47, decided to have the operation after the woman he had lived with for 18 years left him for another man. He decided his eye-pouches made him look too old.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Thursday, July 2

1940 — French government moves to Vichy during World War II.

1954 — France evacuates southern part of Red River Delta in Indochina.

1966 — France explodes atomic bomb at a Pacific atoll in first of series of six tests.

1976 — North and South Vietnam are reunited officially after more than 20 years of war.

1990 — Failure of ventilation system in pedestrian tunnel linking holy city of Mecca and tent city causes stampede that leaves approximately 1,400 pilgrims dead of suffocation or trampling.

Friday, July 3

1608 — Samuel De Champlain, French explorer, lays foundation of Canadian city of Quebec.

1849 — French forces enter Rome despite resistance by Giuseppe Garibaldi, and restore Pope Pius IX.

1881 — Britain persuades Turkey to sign convention with Greece, whereby Greece gets Thessaly and parts of Epirus.

1896 — Abdul Hamid II, Sultan of Turkey, agrees to introduce self-government in Crete, but Greece continues to support insurgents.

1944 — Soviet forces take Minsk in World War II, capturing 100,000 Germans.

1950 — U.S. and North Korean troops clash for first time in Korean War.

1951 — India complains to U.N. Security Council against Pakistan for violating ceasefire agreement in Kashmir.

1962 — Algeria becomes independent after 132 years of French rule.

1971 — Indonesians vote in their country's first national election in 16 years.

Saturday, July 4

1776 — American declaration of independence is passed by Congress.

1779 — French force takes Grenada in West Indies.

1798 — Napoleon Bonaparte occupies Alexandria, Egypt.

1824 — Turkey captures island of Ispara in war with Greeks.

1887 — Britain and Russia reach agreement on Afghanistan.

1910 — Russia and Japan sign agreement on Manchuria and Korea.

1946 — Republic of the Philippines is founded after 47 years of U.S. rule.

1957 — V. Molotov, D.J. Shepilov and G.M. Malenkov are expelled from Presidium of Central Committee of Soviet Communist Party.

1972 — North and South Korea renounce use of force and agree on principles to unify Korea peacefully without outside interference.

1974 — Ethiopia's Emperor Haile Selassie agrees to military supervision of his government and speedup of democratic reforms.

1986 — Sikh militants kill 12 people in India's troubled Punjab state in bloodiest terrorism spurt in recent weeks.

1988 — U.S. naval investigative team is dispatched to the Gulf following U.S. destruction of Iranian passenger jetliner with 290 aboard.

1990 — Kremlin lifts 10-week rail ban on movement of foodstuffs into Lithuania. Ban was enacted in effort to quell republic's independence movement.

1991 — Former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze renounces his membership in the Communist Party as he refuses to submit to an internal investigation of his role in founding a democratic opposition movement.

Sunday, July 5

1796 — British force captures island of Elba.

1811 — Venezuela becomes first South American country to declare its independence from Spain.

1812 — Britain makes peace with Russia and Sweden.

1830 — French launch invasion of Algeria and take Algiers.

1940 — Vichy government in France breaks off relations with Britain in World War II.

1943 — German offensive on Soviet front begins with Battle of Kursk in World War II.

1959 — President Sukarno dissolves Indonesia's Constituent Assembly.

1973 — Government of small Central African nation of Rwanda is overthrown in military coup.

1975 — Cape Verde islands become independent after 500 years of Portuguese rule.

1977 — Pakistan army seizes power in bloodless coup that unseats Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

1988 — Iran's president says the Islamic Republic has the "right to avenge" the airliner shot down by U.S. warship.

1989 — Sudan's ruling junta decrees one-month unilateral ceasefire in war with rebels in southern Sudan.

1990 — Leaders of NATO countries approve proposal from President George Bush to open alliance to visit from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

1991 — Nelson Mandela is named president of the African National Congress.

Monday, July 6

1535 — Sir Thomas More is executed in England for treason.

1747 — France and Spain break combined blockade of British fleet and troops of Austria's Maria Theresa at Genoa, Italy.

1770 — Russian fleet, with British sailors as officers, defeat Turkish navy at Chesme, Turkey.

1782 — British and French fleets battle off Madras, India.

1809 — Pope Pius VII, having excommunicated Napoleon Bonaparte, is taken prisoner by French.

1827 — Treaty of London, under which Russia, Britain and France recognise autonomy of Greece and agree to force treaty on sultan of Turkey.

1908 — Young Turks under Niaz Bey stage revolt

as Resina in Macedonia, and government troops which are sent to quell the riot desert.

1919 — British dirigible lands at New York's Roosevelt Field, marking first crossing of Atlantic Ocean by an airship.

1923 — Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is formed.

1945 — Nicaragua becomes first nation to accept formally United Nations charter.

1988 — Armenian activists claim that paratroopers opened fire on group of unarmed protesters at Yerevan's airport, killing up to five people.

1989 — Iranian leader Ali Khamenei urges Muslims to defy Saudi Arabian ban on political activity in holy cities of Mecca and Medina.

Tuesday, July 7

1815 — Allied forces enter Paris, following Napoleon Bonaparte's abdication.

1898 — United States annexes island of Hawaii.

1913 — Britain's House of Commons passes Irish Home Rule Bill.

1987 — At least 46 Hindus are killed in two attacks on buses within 24 hours in Punjab and Haryana in India by suspected Sikh terrorists.

Wednesday, July 8

1833 — Turkey and Russia sign treaty of Hunkar Iskelesi, a defensive alliance under which sultan agrees to close Dardanelles Straits to all but Russian warships.

1940 — Norway government moves to London after 62 days of fighting Nazi invaders in World War II.

1950 — U.S. General Douglas MacArthur is named commander-in-chief of United Nations forces in Korea.

1967 — Air and ground fighting breaks out between Israel and Egypt along Suez Canal.

1986 — Kurt Waldheim is inaugurated as Austria's president, condemns anti-Semitism and urges Austrians to bridge racial and religious differences with tolerance.

By The Associated Press

Egyptian films lift veil on sex and violence

By John West
Reuter

CAIRO — Pyramids may be the perfect backdrop for romance, but these days Egypt's film industry is dishing out heavy doses of sex, violence and mayhem.

The "Hollywood of the Arab World" has gone down-market. Prison orgies, drug dens in Cairo slums, lesbianism, rape and gangland shootouts are the order of the

day.

The emphasis on sex and violence is challenging Egypt's conservative culture.

In Cairo, veiled women walk past billboards showing actresses squeezed into low-cut dresses fawning on muscular heroes toting guns.

Young men flock to watch films such as *Age Of Strength* or *Hilary's Fist*, which depicts a rugged Charles Bronson-type character who uses martial arts to execute a gang of

rapists. It shows the rape, too.

The films match what many Egyptians see as a harsher, more violent mood in their society.

"Many of these films don't have anything you can call a plot," said Ahmad Hassouna, a researcher in Egyptian films at the American University in Cairo. "I don't like to say this, because it supports the idea of censorship, but I'm sure all the

violence has an effect on people."

The new films are much raunchier than the classical Egyptian cinema of the 1950s and 1960s which concentrated on love stories and domestic plots.

But even the brashest of what film critics call "contract films," shot in as little as 10 days for lucrative Gulf video markets, are tame by Western standards.

Videos, satellites and com-

petition from other Arab countries and India have cut into Egypt's film industry. Cairo studios now put out about 30 films a year, down from a peak of about 100 in the 1950s.

Budgets are low, averaging between \$100,000 and \$200,000, with a total turnover of only about \$10 million.

Although visitors find Egypt a gentle, happy-go-lucky country despite mass poverty and urban over-

crowding, legal authorities say violent crime is on the rise.

A recent sexual assault on a young woman in a Cairo bus station preoccupied public opinion for several weeks. Judges worried by widening drug use have called for traffickers to be hanged in public.

No clear link has been established between lurid films and the rise in violence. But film critics say producers

are targeting younger markets.

"Our cinema is absorbing all its ideas from America... we mimic them blindly," said critic Ahmad Bahgat. "Most directors are either vulgar or merchants who want to entertain the public so they drench then in sex and violence."

But one recent box-office hit, *Kitkat*, was praised for the way it showed the poor Cairo neighbourhood of Imbaba with all its problems —

drink, drugs, premarital sex and deep poverty.

Censorship has been relaxed in recent years. "We can now raise problems for the first time," said Bahgat. "In the old days, to show doctors, lawyers or policemen as corrupt was taboo."

"But you get one film that raises problems like consumerism and drug use and then a series of others which exploit the spectacle and lose the perspective."

Wolf Biermann uses the guitar as a 'weapon'

By Herbert Heinzmann

BONN — He is a poet ever in search of his place between two stools. When there were still two German states, he was the poet between east and west. He crossed over the border: voluntarily, from west Germany into east Germany, involuntarily back to the Federal Republic. Because of this fate, he feels called upon to comment on the problems of unification. He speaks out vociferously, ploughs through his Stasi files (compiled by the east German State Security Service), and made scathing attacks on Stasi agents in the east German literary scene last year when he was awarded the George Büchner Prize by the German Academy of Language and Literature. This prize is regarded as the highest German literary award. Wolf Biermann was honoured as a poet who meddles in politics, as someone who has written songs just for the love of it — as well as poems in anger about the state of

conditions.

The border-crosser who is constantly testing his own limits and assessing the reasonableness of his fellow-creatures, refers proudly to the milieu from which he comes: He was born as the son of a shipyard worker in 1936. The son of a communist who was arrested for sabotaging weapon deliveries to the Spanish dictator Franco and later murdered in Auschwitz. As a sixteen year old, Biermann believed east German propaganda, that the first socialist state on German soil would be created there, and he went to Hamburg — "nach drüben" (over there) as they say in Germany — in 1953. "Over there" he studied philosophy and political economy. He worked two years as assistant producer at the Berliner Ensemble in east Berlin, the theatre founded by Bertolt Brecht. There, he began to write songs which could not — and didn't want to — deny Brecht's heritage.

Wolf Biermann sang songs to the guitar, with a powerful

beat, a sensitive treatment of rhythm and a marked sense of the lyrical in his melodies. He still shares the same fate as Brecht, whom he calls a "genius of the century." Originally, Brecht likewise wanted to be mainly a political poet, a biased dramatist. But, if one day, no theatre performs his plays any more and his political ideas are rejected once and for all, his love lyrics will remain, rough and tender, physical, borne by the melancholic experience of the failure of great emotions. The same applies to Biermann, who is often better able to express the moods of love in words and music than political messages.

But it was world history that pierced Biermann's heart. He sang in east Germany. He agitated for better socialism when it was described as "real existing" — actually existing — there. He tangled with the repressive authorities behind the Wall, such as on the satirical stage of the Berliner Arbeiter

and Studententheater (Berlin Workers and Students Theatre) — until censorship pressure made him close down in 1963. But he still had his guitar — which he used everywhere as a weapon. He refined his music, remained melodious and harmonious — despite alienating breaks — and wanted at no time to lose the popularity emanating from music. As a result, he forfeited the tolerance of the east German regime when he chipped away at the name of the Stalinallee, in east Berlin, in a ballad, or expressed thinly disguised criticism of the ruling party in his stage play *Der Dradra*. The dictators forbade him to make public appearances or publish his writings in east Germany.

Thus, Biermann fell victim to the schizophrenia of a left-wing thinker — so characteristic of divided Germany. He sat defiantly in his apartment in Chausseestraße in east Berlin and wrote texts which could only be published in west Germany, in other words, in the state he had

left. He made records in Chausseestraße which could only be sold in the Federal Republic and in which he conjured up a form of communism with human traits.

Biermann's presence was a thorn in the flesh for the cultural dogmatists in the east. Consequently, they allowed him to go on tour in the Federal Republic and then announced refusal of re-entry — whilst Biermann was giving a concert in Cologne. This act of intolerance is interpreted by many a historian a posteriori as the prelude to the demise of the German Democratic Republic 13 years later.

Biermann felt uneasy in west Germany. He nevertheless adapted himself to the situation, wrote new poems and gave new concerts. He also meddled in politics here, to, with essays and commentaries in major newspapers — with a vehemence which time and again overshot the proposed targets and turned



Writer and political bard Wolf of the German unification process. Biermann is a committed observer.

friends into foes. When the Wall came down in 1989 and Germany grew together again, Wolf Biermann was both enthusiastic and sceptical. He attacked the "Wendehäule" (turncoats) in the final stages of east Germany; there was a premonition of the Germans' approaching prob-

lems in his verses. His latest utterances were not more poetical; they were of a concrete political nature — not devoid of self-pity and disappointments. Like so many other left-wingers in the Federal Republic, Biermann has been disorientated by the course of history. Even so,

he, the stubborn successor to Heinrich Heine, Bert Brecht and François Villon, is familiar with the dialectic of the powers of perseverance. Consequently, the chorus of one of his latest songs is: "Only those who change, remain true to themselves" — IN-Press.

Art lovers on hand as Guggenheim reopens

NEW YORK (AP) — The Guggenheim Museum, Frank Lloyd Wright's distinctive spiral showcase for modern art, has reopened after more than two years of renovation and expansion.

Hundreds of art and architecture lovers waited in line to see the new 10-story annex and gracefully restored building, which immediately became one of the city's beloved landmarks when it was

completed in 1959.

But the museum, across Fifth Avenue from Central Park, had been badly in need of repairs and more space. The leaking, cracking building's display space accommodated just 3 per cent of its collection and offered little room for large canvases.

Visitors, their heads turning up, down and from side to side, weaved back and forth between the original spiraling

rotunda, designed by Wright, and the new building.

Jean Heinelein, 66, of New York City said she came to see the buildings, new and old, more than the art they hold. She liked what she saw. The new building, she said, "doesn't distract from the original and it sort of anchors the building."

The lone exhibit currently in the Wright rotunda is a work in fluorescent lighting

by sculptor Dan Flavin, who married Tracy Harris, a Dallas painter, at the museum recently.

Brad Adams, 36, a high school teacher from Toronto, was pleased that he usual array of works by Degas, Chagall and Warhol were in the annex, leaving the rotunda walls bare until August.

"This is really Wright's piece of work and it already is an exhibition piece," Adams

said of the rotunda.

"I really wouldn't want anything else around it. I think you want to keep the galleries on the side and just sort of enjoy the space," he said.

Building the annex, restoring Wright's original structure, and creating a new branch of the museum a few kilometres away is costing about \$61 million.

But it should also make

room for new visitors because the annex boosts exhibition space for the museum from 31,679 square feet (2,850 square metres) to 51,100 square feet (4,590 square metres).

The inaugural exhibit at the new branch, in Manhattan's Soho art district, spurred a protest by more than 400 people, among them members of the Women's Action Coalition.

'Rose period' exhibition shows Picasso in transition

By David Christian-Edwards

Reuter

BERNE — Think of Picasso and most people think cubism.

But Switzerland is staging the biggest exhibition ever devoted to the Spanish-born artist's pink period of 1905-6, when his favourite subjects were circus performers.

Berne's Kunstmuseum has gathered more than 200 works which show how Pablo Picasso (1881-1973) began to move away from figurative art and lay the groundwork for cubism.

"By the end of the tour you see how his vision of people has changed, how the mask has become important, and how there's a simplification of form in his drawing," says museum Director Hans Christoph Von Tavel.

The exhibition, which ends on July 26, has been organised jointly with the Museu Picasso of Barcelona, the Spanish city where Picasso spent most of his early life before moving to Paris at the age of 22.

Oil paintings, gouaches, pastels, drawings and sculptures worth around \$680 million have been lent by museums and private collectors all over the world.

The rose period followed the better-known blue period of 1900-4 when Picasso painted melancholy pictures of the poor and underprivileged in cold blue tones.

Picasso began to add warmer hues to his palette, pale browns, reds and some pinks. From the social criticism of the blue period, with its beggars and alcoholics, he moved on to basic themes of human love and loneliness.

Harlequins and acrobats depicted roles from everyday life, revealing domestic problems, isolation, and an inability to communicate their feelings.

In a preparatory study for *Family Of Saltimbanques*, five travelling players and a dog stand in a tight group, but are still solitary, lonely figures avoiding eye contact.

Picasso had settled in Montmartre in 1904 and with other artists and writers made friends with performers in a local circus.

Picasso got to know Fernande Olivier, an artist's model and the first of many women to share his life. He also began to smoke opium, which explains the motif of a boy smoking a pipe that appears in numerous paintings.

Some of Picasso's circle of friends were homosexual or bisexual and it was at this time that he introduced into his painting and idealised harlequin of indeterminate sex.

In 1906 Picasso and Olivier visited Barcelona and Gósol, a remote Pyrenean village, where his work took a new turn.

His painting suddenly became impregnated with Ochre, like the clay of the buildings there. He abandoned harlequin in favour of nude studies of boys and women in Greek classical poses. There was a new eroticism.

His painted nudes began to take on a sculptural solidity that foreshadowed cubism, the new movement he was to develop with Georges Braque from 1907.

Winter fashions 1992/93 Hems are dropping



Spanish femininity with a modern look sets the pulses of all men racing. Giorgio Armani created this model with black bands on an ivory background.

THE NEW winter fashions from Paris and Milan promise plenty of class and — and in line with consumer's mood — more quality than show. The focus is on fashionable fabrics with a totally new structure and look rather than on spectacularly innovative fashions. One bit of news: hems drop well below the knee. The woman of the 90s takes a more rational view of fashion. She buys with specific needs in mind, selects good cuts, comfort and puts top-quality, novel materials before show for show's sake.

Whereas all that can be said about the cuts is that hems are lower, there is massive praise for the fabrics used, especially those from Switzerland. In keeping with these harder times, quality and innovation are of the essence and here the Swiss textile industry — the traditional innovator in this field — wins a large slice of the fashion cake. The new fabric trends, presented to the Swiss textile manufacturers' international clientele last autumn, are now to be seen on the catwalks of the world.

New basics

These are softly, casually falling, finely structured crêpes that may also be mot-

tled or delicately iridescent. They are ideal for the newly favoured trouser suits or feminine costumes with neat, waisted jackets and wide, softly falling, hip-hugging circular skirts. In the new length, of course. Masculine patterns, lavish geometrics, or a medley of different designs give new appeal to old styles in the longer lengths and match both the proposed Dandy image and the uncomplicated, modern-casual sporty look. Opposites make ideal partners. Soft is thus combined with firm, and stretch paired with quilted.

Whether short or long — short or at least plenty of leg on show remains 'in.' The new fashion proposes three silhouettes and, of course, their alternative: trousers. Bodyline is figure-hugging, sexy, perhaps even featuring a tubular skirt. The X-line emphasises the waist. Bodices are narrow: skirts wide and swirling and very long. The H-line, in trouser suits for example, improvises on familiar themes. It is slim but not tight; body-conscious but figure-friendly.

Glamorous evenings

Evening wear has become emancipated. As for daywear, the motto is: it's the material that counts. Tradi-



The long, narrow dress in an appealing combination of simplicity and subtlety.

tional St. Gall embroidery, stretch velvet, silky prints and — making a comeback — magnificent brocades, taffetas, and duchesse satins are used for stunning cocktail and evening gowns. Lavish

guipure trimmings, sequined and gold lamé embroideries are seen both on diminutive disco jackets and on catsuits — Press Service of the Publicity Centre For Swiss Textiles.

AIDS vaccine successful in tougher test with monkeys — study

By Paul Reecer

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An experimental vaccine has been shown in a laboratory monkey test that it can immunize against AIDS-infected blood cells, a common pathway for spread of the disease among intravenous drug users.

Monkeys inoculated with the vaccine remained free of AIDS infection for up to a year after they were injected with contaminated blood, said Patricia Fultz of the University of Alabama in Birmingham.

"This proves we're on the

right track," she said.

The study, published in the journal Science, tested how effective an AIDS vaccine would be against a virus that is contained within blood cells. The vaccine in an earlier study was tested against free-floating virus, virus particles in the plasma of the blood, but not within the blood cells. The human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) which causes AIDS, is known to cause infection in both forms.

"Many people felt this was a strong challenge for the vaccine because infected cells

have the potential of producing much more virus," said Fultz, who was the lead author of the study.

The research involved three chimpanzees. Inoculated with a vaccine and then injected with HIV-infected blood cells.

Ms. Fultz said the vaccine mimics the molecules found on the outside of the HIV virus and on the outside of cells that are infected with the virus.

After inoculation, all three monkeys were injected with doses of blood cells from a chimpanzee infected with AIDS.

Researchers then tested the three chimps periodically to see if they developed an HIV infection.

One monkey died of heart failure, not associated with AIDS, after seven months, said Ms. Fultz. Tissue samples taken from this monkey were cultured for six weeks and there was no evidence of viral infection, she said.

The other two monkeys were found to be immune to the HIV virus for a full 12 months.

"This tells us that the vaccine candidates with which we are working have the

potential to protect against both forms of virus and that we don't need to revise our vaccine at this point or try additional types," said Ms. Fultz.

She said that using infected blood cells is a good test for what happens when drug users share dirty needles. Patients with AIDS typically leave a residue of infected blood in a needle. A person sharing such an unsterilized needle then could put these infected blood cells into his own bloodstream, possibly leading to an HIV infection. A primary target of the

AIDS virus is the white blood cell, or lymphocyte, that normally circulates in the blood stream. The virus links with a molecule on the lymphocyte surface and then moves inside the cell. The virus can also do this with macrophages, another type of blood cell.

Although the new test has the promise of an AIDS vaccine, Ms. Fultz said that much more work needs to be done before it can be tested in humans.

She noted, for instance, that one of the monkeys that was free of HIV for a year

was later injected with cell-free HIV virus and developed the disease.

"This suggests the immunity isn't long lasting and indicates that frequent booster immunizations may have to be given," said Ms. Fultz. "This would not be good, particularly in Third World countries where it can be difficult to give vaccinations."

The researcher said the vaccine also needs to be tested to see if it prevents sexual transmission of AIDS.

"We need to determine if this type of vaccine will

generate an immune response sufficient to protect against vaginal challenge," said Ms. Fultz. "This is probably the major mode of transmission throughout the world — heterosexual intercourse."

Other co-authors of the study were from the National Cancer Institute, the Institute Pasteur in Paris, Duke University in North Carolina, New York Medical Centre and the Transgene Co. in France.

Science, which published the report, is the journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Condom shortage threatens effort to stem AIDS epidemic in Third World

By Matt Yancey

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A shortage of condoms could thwart efforts by the State Department and the World Health Organization (WHO) to slow an AIDS epidemic in Third World countries, congressional investigators said.

The General Accounting Office (GAO), the investigative arm of the U.S. Con-

gress, said neither the WHO nor the State Department's Agency for International Development (AID) wants to provide the condoms to meet the demand that their AIDS-prevention programmes are stimulating.

The State Department "hopes that host governments will look to other donors and that WHO, being the lead global organization, should take the lead" be-

cause it and other U.N. agencies can get condoms for a lower price since they don't have to "buy American," the investigators said.

But they also said WHO has no plans to buy more condoms and "no evidence that other international donors were willing to supply" them for AIDS-prevention programmes.

In a report finding fault with both the Bush adminis-

tration and Congress in addressing the spread of AIDS and the HIV virus that causes it, the GAO said the State Department agency still gives the programme too low a priority.

However, it also noted that Congress has appropriated only \$168 million since 1986 to support AIDS-prevention activities and said the Agency for International Develop-

ment has had to dip into other accounts for \$68 million more to carry out intervention programmes in 70 developing countries.

The GAO auditors said the State Department agency has been slow to identify priority countries and has not come up with all the criteria needed to assess whether its programmes are having an effect.

But they also said the agen-

cy is on the way to resolving many of the problems they identified and quoted health experts as saying its new strategy "could be effective in slowing the spread of the virus in priority countries."

The State Department agency has now identified 12 countries — six in Africa, two in Asia, one in South America and three in the Caribbean — where the HIV virus is the most widespread and

where it will focus its resources.

They are Malawi, Senegal, Nigeria, Ethiopia, South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand, India, Brazil, Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Jamaica.

The Agency for International Development said Third World countries will soon account for 90 per cent of the world's HIV infection, which has doubled from 6

million cases in 1989 to 12 million and is projected to reach 40 million by the year 2000.

More than 50 per cent live in Central and Southern Africa, almost 25 per cent live in Asia and about 17 per cent live in Latin America and the Caribbean. Eighty per cent of them acquired the virus through sexual transmission, the agency said.

'Second-hand tobacco smoke endangers children'

By H. Josef Hebert

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A U.S. government report has concluded that exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke poses severe health risks to young children, causing tens of thousands of respiratory illnesses annually.

The draft report, presented to the Environment Protection Agency's (EPA) Science Advisory Panel, estimated tobacco smoke may cause be-

tween 150,000 and 300,000 severe respiratory ailments, including bronchitis and pneumonia, each year in children less than 18 months of age.

The study also said that children who live with smokers are more likely to become asthmatic and have more frequent and severe attacks. Exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke was estimated to cause between 8,000 and 26,000 additional asthma cases a year among young children, the EPA report said.

Exposure to secondary tobacco smoke "exacerbates asthmatic symptoms in approximately 20 per cent of the country's 2 million to 5 million asthmatic children," the study added.

The findings, which were based on an examination of dozens of scientific studies and aim to assess the health risks from tobacco smoke to nonsmokers, have been under review at the EPA for more than a year.

The report also suggests a possible link between second-

dary tobacco smoke and sudden infant death syndrome, or SIDS, the mysterious illness that is the most frequent cause of death among infants aged 1 month to 1 year.

While there are a number of studies showing "strong evidence" that infants whose mothers smoke have an increased risk of dying from AIDS, there is not enough evidence to determine how much of that is linked prenatal smoking as opposed to a child's exposure to secondary smoke after birth, the study

said. EPA spokesmen emphasized that the findings were in draft form and still needed to be reviewed by the agency's Science Advisory Board. The board had examined a preliminary draft in April 1991 and asked that the sections on children's exposure to passive tobacco smoke be strengthened.

The latest draft study, as well as the previous draft, recommended that secondary tobacco smoke be classified as a carcinogen and known cause of lung cancer.

The new draft estimated that secondary smoke accounts for between 2,500 and 3,300 lung cancer deaths a year, a number slightly lower than had been cited in

the 1991 draft.

John Banzhaf, executive director of the anti-smoking group Action On Smoking and Health, said the EPA findings represent a major step toward getting legislation passed to ban smoking in work places and in public places. He said they also might be used in child custody cases.

"It will prove strong additional support for legislative efforts to ban smoking in public places," he said.

Previous studies also have suggested that passive smoke may pose serious health problems for children.

The Tobacco Institute, an industry group, has dismissed such studies as inconclusive.

Skin cancer sufferers have 50% chance of developing cancers

By Tamara Starks

CHICAGO — People who previously suffered from less deadly forms of skin cancer have a 50 per cent chance of developing one or more new skin cancers during the next five years, a study found.

"This points up the need for these people to be kept under medical surveillance," said Dr. Robert Greenberg, co-author of the study and an epidemiologist at Dartmouth Medical School in Hanover, New Hampshire. "It's best for them to be seen by a physician. Once a year would probably be enough for most people."

About 600,000 Americans are diagnosed with skin cancer each year. The majority of cases are the less life-threatening basal cell or squamous cell cancers,

according to the American Cancer Society.

An estimated 8,800 people will die of skin cancer this year — with 2,100 of those deaths attributed to the non-melanoma cancers, the cancer society said.

Researchers studied 1,805 patients diagnosed as having a basal or squamous cell skin cancer between January 1980 and February 1986. The subjects were free of skin cancer at the start of the five-year study reported in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Basal cell is the most common form of skin cancer. Both basal and squamous cell skin cancers are much less likely to be life-threatening than melanoma, which was not included in the study.

The study found a 35 per cent risk for patients develop-

ing one or more new skin cancers three years into the follow-up period and 50 per cent after five years.

"It's been known before that people who had skin cancer have a high risk of getting more, but this study gives more extensive documentation," said Dr. Martin Weinstock, a dermatologist and epidemiologist at Roger Williams Veterans' Administration Medical Centre in Providence. "This is also important in documenting that people tend to have the same type of skin cancer as before."

For both cancers, the risk of another occurrence was higher among men, those over age 60 and patients who had more prior skin cancers.

"There was also a trend of increasing risk associated with greater (ultraviolet) skin

damage and with more sun-sensitive skin type," the authors wrote.

The study also found an elevated risk of squamous cell skin cancer among cigarette smokers, especially those who were current smokers at the start of the study.

"This is some good evidence that smoking also is linked to cancerous sites not directly linked to the respiratory system," Weinstock said. "That suggests that carcinogens from cigarette smoke do get to other parts of the body."

The study found no clear relationship between smoking and basal cell skin cancer. More study is needed to determine if the higher risk of squamous cell skin cancer among smokers is significant, Dr. Greenberg said.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

AUTO PARTS

By Joel Davajan

ACROSS
1 Clot's sister
5 Dried
10 Ring or thermo
14 Indian soldier
15 French soldier
20 Play, once
21 "Ernest" author
22 Musical refrain
23 Love handles
25 Aught harvest
27 Audacity
28 Party snags
30 Flims
31 Family members
32 Alpine peak
33 Turn
34 German mar.
37 Concur
38 Kick

DOWN
1 Formerly formerly
2 Hawker
3 Rita donor
4 Tedious
5 Oppressive
6 Shady
7 Diversity
8 Prior to
9 Lifetime
10 Certain
11 More voracious
12 Sights
13 Julia Child means
14 Wall or Man
15 Kilar whales
16 Fighting periods
17 Medicinal plant
18 Sings in a way
19 Color
20 Post T.S.

39 Would-be grade
42 Undeclared land
45 Framinal gp
46 Tare on
47 Run away
48 Termination
50 Coccoloba's transport
51 "Giovanni"
52 Local government
53 Supernatural beings
54 Sassy
55 Landed
56 Wise guy
57 Paves time
58 TV's Lou Grant
59 Josh
62 Fleuve conduit

63 Lessos
64 Sed
65 Fried
66 Army musician
67 Sore
68 pompously
69 numerical prefix
70 Bay's deities
71 Ammon
72 Phrase poems
73 Convey
74 Labor railroad
75 Teach
76 Landed
77 "Jung"
78 Seal
79 TV's Lou Grant
80 Lowie
81 collaborator

82 Healthy
83 Accumulate
84 Place
85 TV's Remington
86 Mosa
87 Study groups
88 Brain-rot
89 groups
90 Dense bamboo
91 prosciutto
92 Mysterious locale
93 102
94 Cable car
95 Formal
96 prosciutto
97 103
98 104
99 Curt the top
100 Hamburg's state abbr
101 Samplings
102 Depressions

86 Architectural
87 triangles
88 Our supports
89 Buffed leather
90 Dealer
91 Bare paintings
92 Forsman
93 Obliterate
94 Acquire
95 Borzoi vegetable
96 Long-handled
97 hammer
98 Geometric figures
99 Toleo's
100 waterfront
101 Pricless love
102 musically
103 Really son
104 Sanyed people
105 Schemat region
106 Attorney's exam
107 abhor

81 Bugs
82 Bought new
83 Recalcitrant
84 An arm or a leg
85 Early evening star
86 Sanja
87 Actor Alan
88 Acquire
89 Fr. holy women
90 "And" — there were none
91 "And" — there were none
92 Shamrock land
93 Single time
94 Grinch
95 Related
96 Paralelogram
97 Japs penes
98 Elec. unit
99 Paraphrase

Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Badly underpaid nurse won top prize in the New Year's Day Health Bowl classic.
2. Would-be writer doodles and dawdles more than he writes, but would be loath to admit it.
3. One's logical definition of graffiti: The scrawls of the wild.
4. Auditor faults stylish food factory for chicness in chic canary.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. APDX PRJDPJ LYJBLJ BYXI XDAMP
CNXY SCJL BFDXX SCHIYSB JY PBTCTY
CH DXBTD. —By Earl Ireland
2. V JXXP TVPH RZKRSZ RNLNZ ZNIWAZ
IBVFXEI EWCB AZLH SWCCSZ GBVFGZ XE
JLVIRWFF BXSP XK CBZT. —By Gordon Miller
3. AKK CUBUQYL LYOTTE ZB ULLZOUT XM
FLYDDP MTEQZBZB ZB BYED XM FLZAEZ
MYCUTY DUBUQYL UD UOZULP. —By Eugene T. Malenka
4. QUOS OWUM QHNI PROKIUQGGRI BEKM UO
DEPECK R BIRD CROW HI R DERLOUNLON
DLOOKING? —By Ed Huddleston

Diagramless 19 x 19, By James Barrick

ACROSS
1 Field's yield
2 Operative highlight
3 Daniel the pioneer
4 Diving bird
11 Signature on a check
14 — off (begin a golf game)
15 — factio variety

19 Girl
20 Oh, wool!
21 Banquet
22 Purple color
23 Like a forest
24 Defeat
25 Fresh money
31 Household servants
33 Indian of Peru

34 Of no importance
41 Rights org.
42 — a hole
43 Ordinary language
44 Like a hole
45 Mountain ridge
46 Sidelight
49 Spring
50 Gambling haven

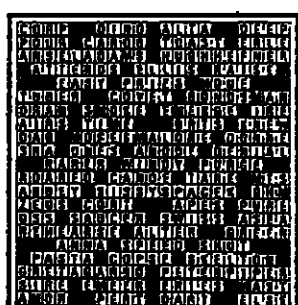
51 Writer Amble
52 But
53 Mosa
54 Fr. holy women
55 —
56 Steamboat
57 Overhead
58 Ments
59 Abound
60 — the wood

DOWN
1 Ice cream holder
2 Jockeyed
3 Yolk — Lennon
4 Dancer
5 Nearly
6 Fish eggs
7 Electrified particle
8 Fomitory
9 Transcend at a track

12 Few and far
13 Attempt
14 Name
15 Hedgepodge
16 Bull meat
21 Old Nick
24 Fashionable
25 Set of tires
26 A single time
27 Barely sufficient
29 Tokyo, formerly

30 Fit of resentment
31 Trap
32 Lowlender
33 If not
34 Barbed
35 Wading bird
36 Make a change in
40 Epistle
41 Commemoration
42 Lab device
43 Chamber
47 Time of year

48 Rarely
49 Cried like a crow
50 Whistled
51 Keep an eye on
52 Overhead
53 Cooking vessel
54 Pub office
55 Poor grade
56 Hit the — (go to bed)



طراحيات

Jordan rejects U.S. criticism

(Continued from page 1)

Coupled with the proposal for stationing U.N. inspectors in Jordan was an offer of an alternate oil supply to Jordan, initially at international prices and then at concessionary prices or what officials here describe as a return to the traditional arrangement Jordan previously had with Saudi Arabia.

As an extra incentive, Jordan was also promised that the naval fleet currently patrolling Aqaba to inspect cargo would be withdrawn if sanctions against Iraq became more effective.

"I don't know what Mr. Djerejian means by reintegrating us into the Gulf hinterland. They (Gulf states) also need some of the products and people we have here," the official told the Jordan Times Wednesday.

In any event, Jordan cannot accept the U.S. allegations that the Kingdom is the conduit for unaccounted goods in the Iraqi market unless it receives precise evidence to back the allegations. "We have not received charges of illegal shipments or specific on any particular shipment for example," said the official. "All we keep getting are names of companies and people or they tell us that Jordanian products are being found in Iraq."

"However, until this moment we have not received any evi-

dence which can relate these "facts" with Jordan," he said.

Mr. Djerejian, pressed by California Democratic Representative Tom Lantos, whose family survived the Holocaust and who is a staunch supporter of Israel, refused to commit the Bush administration to any concrete plans of punitive measures against Jordan.

When repeatedly questioned on what will happen if "Jordan continues to refuse non-Jordanian observers and the flow of vital supplies and material to Saddam Hussein's regime through Jordan continues," Mr. Djerejian said that there were no concrete measures — beyond — the hands-off policy vis-a-vis Jordan's relations with the Gulf States — but that goal that should be kept in sight was "to get effective sanctions enforcement on the ground in Jordan."

A Jordanian official close to the sanctions talks told the Jordan Times Wednesday that the Kingdom is likely to "take additional measures to ensure that sanctions against Iraq are not busted through Jordanian territory."

Although Mr. Djerejian's statements did not carry clear threats against Jordan, it was evident that the situation was turning tense in Congress and that the administration may capitulate to that pressure, especially in an election year.

An analyst of American politics said that Mr. Lantos questioning was an important pressure since the California representative may be the next chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee if the Democrats win the elections.

Also adding to the pressure are press reports in the U.S. accusing Jordan of refusing to cooperate in "stemming illicit trade with Iraq."

A New York Times report on Wednesday quoted an administration official as saying that it has failed to get Jordan to cooperate and is weighing a plan to place U.N. inspectors inside Iraq.

"We essentially made the case for a strengthened United Nations regime, at the end of the day it was no sale — the Jordanians felt they couldn't go along," the administration official was quoted as saying.

The U.S. has been trying to distance Washington from the Aqaba plus proposal saying it was an issue between Jordan and the U.N. but has been simultaneously applying the most pressure on the Kingdom to accept it.

"I think what the Americans keep forgetting is that we have no choice but to apply the sanctions but at the same time we are very capable of taking care of it ourselves," the Jordanian official said.

U.S. policy remains on course, Djerejian reports

WASHINGTON — American policy towards the Middle East will continue to focus on efforts to promote regional peace and stability, particularly in the form of the peace process, the maintenance on sanctions against Iraq, and the fight against international terrorism, Edward Djerejian, assistant secretary of state for the Near East and South Asia, said Tuesday.

Appearing for the second time in two weeks before the House Foreign Affairs Sub-Committee on Europe and the Middle East, Mr. Djerejian expressed Washington's "deep regret" over the June 29 assassination of Algerian head of state Mohammed Boudiaf, and over the "difficult" situation that exists in Algeria.

But U.S. policy towards Algeria has not changed, and continues to promote democracy, free markets, pluralism, human rights, and the peaceful resolution of differences, he said.

Mr. Djerejian told the committee the administration will continue to refuse comment on the June 23 elections in Israel until a new government has been formed. "We want... in no way to be in a position where we are making premature substantive comments on policy matters," he told Chairman Lee Hamilton (Democrat-Indiana).

Despite a barrage of questions by several committee members, he refused to discuss specific circumstances under which the Bush administration might agree to support Israel's request for \$10,000 million in loan guarantees for the absorption of new immigrants.

U.S. officials, Mr. Djerejian explained, are "deliberately" refraining from public comment on specific issues until a new Israeli government is in place and ready for talks. Broadly speaking, U.S. policy towards Israel will focus on the Middle East peace process,

and on strengthening a bilateral relationship that Mr. Djerejian called "one of the most resilient among nations anywhere."

Asked about the situation in Iraq, Mr. Djerejian noted that the United Nations is now negotiating with Baghdad to obtain renewal of the post-war agreement that permits 1100 U.N. personnel to be stationed in Iraq. Despite some "balking" on the part of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, Washington expects the discussions to wind up soon.

Iraq's overall compliance with the regime is "spotty," but Mr. Djerejian underlined that "what is important is that the inspection regime is intrusive, it is active, it is effective, and we... are uncovering certainly the major components of his programs of weapons of mass destruction..."

The United States is "closely watching" Iranian behaviour towards the Central Asia republics of the former Soviet Union, he

said, adding: "We certainly do not want to see Iran embark on what could be considered destabilization policies" in that area. Iran, he said, continues to engage in human rights abuses and to support terrorist groups — notably the Hizbollah organisation in Lebanon.

In brief comments on Syria, Mr. Djerejian noted that it re-

mains on the State Department's list of countries that support terrorism, because of its provision of "safe haven" and logistical support for "terrorist" groups. In other areas, he reported progress, noting that Syria has thus far complied with the U.N.-imposed sanctions against Libya, and has, since April, given 500 exit visas to members of its Jewish minority.

House passes 4 more articles

(Continued from page 1)

is rejected is guaranteed in Article 11, which gives them 30 days to file an appeal in the court.

A sub-article states that at least five judges must preside over the appeal decision.

The court then has 60 days to pass a verdict. If the court votes in favour of the party's application, then the Ministry of Interior must register the party on the day

that the verdict is handed down.

During Wednesday's session, the fifth of the extraordinary session, the House also set 50 as the minimum number of members that a party should have prior to applying for registration and during the legalisation process. The Registration will become null and void if the number steps below this minimum, according to draft law.

A minor amendment by Irbi Deputy Abdul Raouf Al Rawab-

deh was agreed to by deputies on Article 13, which regulates when and how a party can announce its official existence.

"The party cannot announce its existence or begin acting like a party until the Ministry of Interior announces its legalisation in its official gazette or after the court has accepted the appeal of the party founders in case of refusal by the Ministry of Interior," according to the amendment.

So far, the government's version of the draft law has been mostly approved by the House. The House's Law Committee's suggestion were voted down.

Wednesday's session ended while deputies began a sensitive debate in Article 14.

Article 14, as outlined in the government's draft, restricts committees, societies or establishments from carrying out political activities.

The article is expected to face heavy opposition from the 21-member Muslim Brotherhood bloc as well as leftists and pan-Arab deputies. These groups have had the longest history of political activity in the Kingdom.

During the 30 years when political freedoms were absent, political groups relied on societies, charitable organisations, unions and even some commercial institutions to engage in politics.

Algerian leader laid to rest

(Continued from page 1)

died from a heart attack while attending the funeral, the official news agency APS said.

Algeria's first president Ahmad Ben Bella, who sentenced Mr. Boudiaf — a former independence war comrade — to death in 1964 for political activity, was among the mourners.

The sentence, passed in Mr. Boudiaf's absence, kept him in exile for 27 years, broken only by his return to take power last January, just months after Mr. Ben Bella himself returned from exile to which he was forced when ousted in 1965.

The tense calm that followed the killing broke late Tuesday when unknown gunmen in a van sprayed a police station with machinegun fire, witnesses said. Police fired back and gave chase. It was unknown if there were casualties.

Residents also reported that

police used gunfire to break up crowd trying to demonstrate around the capital Tuesday. The nature of the demonstrations and possible casualties were unknown.

The attack resembled raids by extremist Islamic groups that have killed some 100 policemen and soldiers.

Fundamentalists remain the popular suspects for the Boudiaf assassination. But the High State Council, which claimed to have taken an assassin into custody, has not placed blame and offered no new leads.

Fundamentalists deny that they carried out the assassination, but a communique issued by the banned FIS in Paris showed no regrets.

"The right of self-defence is given to those who are attacked by injustice," the communique said. "God is perfectly capable of giving them victory."

Settlements emerge as sticking point

(Continued from page 1)

settlement in the occupied territory and his refusal to consider any land-for-peace deal angered Washington, which condemned the settlements as obstacles to peace.

Mr. Shamir said last week he was ready to drag out the talks for 10 years to enable him to flood the territories with settlers.

In a newspaper interview published on Wednesday, outgoing Defence Minister Moshe Arens said Mr. Shamir and the Likud had shown "too little flexibility in the U.S.-brokered Middle East talks."

Mr. Shamir's positions on the peace talks put Israel at a disadvantage and soured relations with the Bush administration, the Haaretz daily quoted Mr. Arens as saying.

Mr. Arens, whose announcement last week he was quitting politics launched a succession battle in the Likud, said: "Most of the public wants to find a solution to the problem of our frictions with the Arab population."

"The Likud did not understand this. Yitzhak Rabin did."

Mr. Arens criticised the rightist party after announcing his retirement from politics following last week's election loss. But his statements in an interview with the daily Haaretz were a stronger condemnation of the party's policies.

Since U.S.-backed talks began last October, Mr. Arens said, "the impression has been created among the public that the Likud wasn't taking the peace process seriously and was only interested in dragging it out."

Last Friday, Mr. Shamir was quoted as saying he had hoped to draw out autonomy talks for 10 years while vastly expanding Jewish settlements to block a Palestinian state. Aides later said his comment was misinterpreted.

Arabs had feared Mr. Shamir's government was not serious about peace talks. But Mr. Arens, who was regarded as Mr. Shamir's protégé, said Likud angered Israelis as well the foot-dragging tactics.

"The majority of the Israelis want to find a solution for our frictions with the Arab population. The Likud didn't understand that those who don't fulfill the wishes of the majority won't be in power," he said.

While Mr. Arens comments seemed aimed at Mr. Shamir, he did

not mention the 76-year-old premier by name.

Mr. Shamir said after Likud's defeat by Labour that he would step down as leader of the party, setting the stage for a bitter succession battle.

The party decided this week to hold a primary to choose a new leader. But in a letter reported Wednesday in the daily Maariv, party campaign treasurer Gideon Sitterman warned that with its 10 million shekel debt, Likud was too broke to hold primaries.

Palestinian uprising activists, meanwhile, warned against placing hope in a Rabin government.

"Rabin and his party have affirmed repeatedly the continuation of occupation and settlement and the clear rejection of withdrawing from the occupied territories," the activists said in an underground leaflet distributed Wednesday.

(Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat said on Tuesday Israel's shift to the Labour Party showed the people wanted peace.

"The recent Israeli elections show the Israeli public wants peace," Mr. Arafat told heads of state at the annual Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit. "We hope this will be reflected in the new government's policies."

Mr. Arafat, who has observer status at the OAU, said the Likud government had intensified violence against Palestinians and increased Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank.

He reiterated support from sanctions-hit Iraq and called for an end to international measures against Libya over the Lockerbie plane bombing, calling them "punitive."

A Palestinian official said Tuesday Palestinians could gain limited self-rule within months if Israel stopped building Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

Hanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to Middle East peace talks, told journalists in Bonn she did not expect miracles now that the Labour had won elections in Israel.

But she said: "If Rabin stops the settlements and negotiations, we could reach within months Palestinian self-government and the initiative's more military activities will stop."

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Al Hussein leads soccer league

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Hussein scored a crushing 7-1 victory over Sahab Tuesday to regain their lead in soccer's first division standings as they tied with Al Ramtha with 14 points each but led on goal differences.

The week's other matches ended in convincing victories for Al Ramtha over Yarmouk Amman, Al Wihdat over Al Arabi, and Al Qadissieh over Al Ahli at Al Hassan Sports City in Irbid.

Al Hussein's Aref Hussein scored 5 of his team's seven goals. Hussein's first goal came from a penalty kick in the 30th minute. The second goal followed in the 40th minute and the third goal three minutes later to end the first half 3-0 for Al Hussein.

Sahab's players were forced to retreat to concentrate on defense and did not pose any real danger on their opponent goal, although Mohammad Al Ashab tried to score but failed.

Ahmad Al Shaqran scored Al Hussein's fourth goal in the 60th minute, followed by the fifth and sixth goals by Aref Hussein in the 70th and 72nd minutes.

Sahab scored their only goal by Mohammad Al Ashab from a penalty kick in the 75th minute. Munib Gharaibeh scored Al Hussein's seventh and last goal in the 79th minute to end the match with the

highest number of goals so far this season. The win and plentiful goals will be important to Al Hussein as competition heats up in the second round.

Meanwhile, at Al Hussein Youth City in Amman, Al Qadissieh scored a precious 2-0 win over Al Ahli to reassert themselves as a team to be reckoned with.

Al Qadissieh attacked Al Ahli's goal from the onset but goalkeeper Mohammad Abu Daoud did a good job as always and prevented early goals.

Mustafa Adam scored Al Qadissieh's first goal to end the first half 1-0.

Al Ahli seemed helpless as Al Qadissieh lost many chances before Ahmad Sharif scored the second goal in the 61st minute to give his team an important win over Al Ahli who had so far lost only one match against Al Ramtha in the first round.

In this week's other matches Al Wihdat scored a 4-0 victory over Al Arabi who's struggle to avoid relegation seems to be failing. Ibad Abdul Munem scored Al Wihdat's first goal in the 22nd minute. Fourth minutes later his brother Hisham scored the second goal to end the first half 2-0.

Al Wihdat could have scored more goals but lost many chances before a 76th minute goal from Hisham Abdul Munem gave them their third

goal.

Abdul Munem later retired for the day with an injury after Al Arabi's Ala' Al Roussan deliberately tackled him and got a red card from the referee. Imad Al Zaghari scored Al Wihdat's fourth and final goal in the 80th minute.

In another match in Irbid, Al Ramtha beat Yarmouk Amman 3-0 and added another two points to their overall standings.

Khaled Al Aqqouri, Mouaffaq Abu Hadeib and Badran Al Shaqran led Al Ramtha's attacks and exhausted Yarmouk's defenders.

Aqqouri scored his team's first two goals in the 28th and 35th minutes of the first half.

Yarmouk Amman seemed unable to equalize and lost all hope after Al Ramtha's Rateb Al Daoud scored the third goal early in the second half.

Khaled Ata of Yarmouk lost some good chances to score as the match ended 3-0 for Al Ramtha.

In the upcoming matches Yarmouk Amman plays Al Faisali Thursday, Al Hussein clashes against Al Wihdat Friday, Al Faisali plays Al Qadissieh Monday and Al Arabi plays Al Ahli Tuesday.

Meanwhile the Jordan Soccer Federation has set the second division competition schedule in which 13 teams will be competing. They include Al Jazira, Al Karmel and Al Jeel who were relegated last season.

The top two teams of the second division will make it back to the first division while three first division teams will be relegated this season.

The second division matches begin on July 15 and will run up to Oct. 9.

STANDINGS

Team	Played	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Al Hussein	10	5	4	1	19	10	14
Al Ramtha	10	6	2	2	18	11	14
Al Ahli	10	3	5	2	10	9	11
Al Faisali	8	3	4	1	13	17	10
Al Qadissieh	10	3	4	3	10	7	10
Al Wihdat	9	3	3	3	16	12	9
Sahab	10	1	6	3	13	21	8
Yarmouk Amman	9	2	1	6	5	15	5
Al Arabi	10	1	3	6	8	20	5

* Al Faisali-Yarmouk Amman have a postponed match.

Stich bows out of Wimbledon; Sabatini, Sampras advance

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Pete Sampras became the first man to reach the Wimbledon semifinals Wednesday, eliminating defending champion Michael Stich in straight sets.

Sabatini, who had never gone past the second round in three previous Wimbledon appearances, put on a dominant serve-and-volley performance for a 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 victory.

"He just killed me," Stich said. "He played perfect grass court tennis."

It took two minutes for third-seeded Gabriela Sabatini to finish off Jennifer Capriati in a women's quarterfinal match suspended by darkness Tuesday evening.

Sabatini, leading 6-1, 3-6, 5-3, held serve to love to complete the victory. On match point, Capriati hit a forehand serve return into the net.

"She played good points," said Capriati, the sixth seed. "It was exactly the way the match was going the night before."

The players waited more than 17 hours to play the final four points. "It was kind of weird," Capriati said. "It was a real bummer."

Capriati said she had trouble seeing Tuesday evening and sought to have the match called off after the second set.

Sabatini will face defending champion Steffi Graf in one semifinal Thursday, with Monica Seles playing Martina Navratilova in the other.

Sampras, the fifth seed, will face the winner of the match between No. 2 Stefan Edberg and

No. 8 Goran Ivanisevic. The other quarterfinals had John McEnroe against Guy Forget, and Boris Becker vs. Andre Agassi.

Sampras has lost only one set in the tournament. He won the 1990 U.S. Open on hard courts but has never had success on grass until now.

"My one goal in my career was to do well here," he said. "I always thought the grass was an equalizer and that I could lose to anyone on any given day. The last week I've been playing really well."

The start of play was delayed by just over half an hour by rain.

Sampras looked comfortable from the outset, while Stich was upset at line calls and the slippery conditions on centre court.

Stich, the third seed, complained throughout the first set about the footing. He slipped several times, including once when he did a split while reaching for a shot.

"I've fallen down five times," Stich protested to referee Alan Mills at the end of the first set. "Every time you step on the lines, you can't stand at all."

But Mills ordered play to continue.

Sampras held at love in the first game and broke in the second when Stich double faulted at 15-40. Stich complained loudly that the call was late.

Serving for the match, Sampras went up 40-0. He double faulted on his first match point, but converted on the second with a deep second serve that Stich



Gabriela Sabatini

couldn't handle.

As Sampras held up his arms in triumph, Stich refused to shake hands with umpire Jeremy Shales.

Sampras served eight aces, and his first-serve percentage was 83 per cent.

Stich said he was not distraught about losing his title.

"I'm not the Wimbledon champion for one year," he said. "I'm the Wimbledon champion 1991 for the rest of my life and I'm going to enjoy it."

Back in the Wimbledon semifinals for the 15th time, Navratilova is the first to admit she is defying the laws of aging.

"Some people are burned out

at 25, I'm alive at 35," Navratilova said Tuesday after beating Katerina Maleeva 6-3, 7-6 (7-2) in the quarterfinals of her 20th Wimbledon.

Navratilova is ancient compared to the other women's semifinalists. Graf is 23, Sabatini 22 and Seles 18.

"Age is a state of mind and I'm defying it as well as I possibly can," she said. "I'm just thrilled that I'm here and I'm healthy. I'm fitter at 35 than most players are in their 20s."

Navratilova, who has a record nine Wimbledon singles titles, will face Seles in the semifinals. Seles has won five of the last six Grand Slam tournament she entered and is halfway to a Grand Slam sweep this year. The only Grand Slam event she hasn't won is Wimbledon, which she skipped last year at the last minute, blaming an injury.

Navratilova said she has nothing to fear from Seles' punishing groundstrokes.

But she will have to cope with Seles' grunting.

Tauziat complained Tuesday to chair umpire David Crymble that the high-pitched "screeen" was keeping her from hearing the ball come off Seles' racket. Crymble told Seles to keep quiet.

Seles said grunting is part of her game.

"I'm not doing it on purpose," she said. "I'm really trying to get rid of it. You don't know how hard I'm trying. I'm not doing it to hurt anybody, but I don't think I'm going to win a match because I'm grunting."

Morceli faces uphill battle to recapture old form

HELSINKI (R) — Noureddine Morceli, undisputed master of the 1,500 metres last year, faces an uphill battle to recapture his 1991 form in time for this month's Barcelona Olympics.

A 1,500 metres which had been originally billed as a world record attempt became a desperate fight for survival at the Helsinki Grand Prix athletics meeting when Morceli just held off Qatar's Mohammad Suleiman in a photo finish.

Shouting "nothing, nothing" to reporters seeking comment, Morceli stormed off the track and refused requests to give a news conference.

The world champion had been optimistic before Tuesday's race that he had made a full recovery from a hip injury which disrupted his training earlier in the European season.

But he was clearly struggling and Suleiman almost snatched victory in the last few metres as the pair strained for the finish line. Both men clocked three minutes 34.89 seconds, two hundredths of a second slower than Morceli's time when he finished second to Gennaro Di Napoli in the Rome Grand Prix on June 9.

One interested observer Tuesday was Britain's world mile record holder and former world 1,500 metres champion Steve Cram.

Cram, who has won nothing of note since he sustained the first of a series of injuries five years ago, said Morceli did not look like the runner who had destroyed the world's finest middle-distance men at the Tokyo World Championships.

"I just think he's been hurt more than he lets on," Cram commented. "He still doesn't look as if he's running right to me."

Cram added that Morceli had now lost his "air of invincibility."

"He got beaten in Rome, he almost got beaten here," Cram said.

Switzerland stays in 1998 World Cup race

BERNE, Switzerland (R) — Swiss soccer officials decided Wednesday to maintain their bid to stage the 1998 World Cup finals, boosting Morocco's hopes of becoming the first African nation to host the tournament.

Swiss Football Federation (SFA) President Freddy Rudo told reporters the Swiss bid committee had "decided it would not be wise for Switzerland to withdraw its candidacy at the last moment."

"I don't know if we have any chance, but we are going to run," he added.

Switzerland's decision to stay in the race could conceivably harm the chances of France

said. "The last thing he wants to do is carry on when he's not quite right and get beaten."

Although he refused to answer questions, Morceli did confirm that he would be taking part in Saturday's dream mile at Oslo's Bislett Games, the third and final leg of the Nordic circuit.

On Thursday Stockholm stages a grand prix featuring a significantly stronger entry list than Helsinki, due entirely to the larger sums of money available to the organisers.

A number of leading Americans are scheduled to compete, including their top 100 metres runner Dennis Mitchell, while Britain's world javelin record holder Steve Backley makes his first grand prix appearance of the year.

Backley, whose affable manner conceals a steely determination to atone for his failure in Tokyo last year when he did not qualify for the World Championship final, will have noted with interest the performance of Finn Seppo Raty Tuesday.

Raty, a former world record holder and world champion, maintained his country's distinguished javelin record by throwing a stadium record of 87.12 metres.

He then complained that his technique was still not quite right, although he was happy with his strength.

"I go left, the javelin goes right," he said. "But when I need to I will throw 94 metres easily."

Backley's world record set in Auckland, New Zealand, this year stands at 91.46 and the Briton believes a throw of 90 metres will probably be enough to win the Olympic gold.

Raty's confidence may just be part of the pre-games psychological warfare. On the other hand, if he does harness improved technique to his raw power he certainly looks capable of hurling the javelin well past 90 metres.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY JULY 2, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Don't rely on the information you gather today and don't be in any kind of a rush to set previously made plans in motion without consulting with close associates who share your concerns.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You are apt to be too personal and self engrossed today and others would be likely to shy away from you unless you are considerate of them.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A secret anxiety can keep you so preoccupied that you are not well enough of what is going on about you so keep alert to others' expectations.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) An impatient friend is apt to try to pressure you into doing something different that does not at all fit into your scheme of things so be adamant in refusing.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You think you can do something in the outside world better than other persons but it's their job and you can get in hot water if you stop in.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Think about a new interest very carefully before you get involved for there are aspects to this project that require careful consideration.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) You see a promise made from a different standpoint but don't try to switch over for you eventually

will have to do what you have agreed to do.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A fiery associate can want to make a hundred and eighty degree turn in an agreement between the two of you but insist keep the original agreement.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You want to put some new methods or ideas in to your tasks not but you would be best advised now to study the new while continuing with accepted norms.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Consider well the pleasures you are seeking and make sure you do not give up some proven ones for some recreation that is far more costly.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You are in the mood to make some drastic or dramatic change at your residence and can look into all constructive phases but don't do anything of a positive nature.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Put yourself in a position where you can uncover all sort of interesting information you would like to know more about and study carefully.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You are in the mood to change where property or business matters are concerned that you will have more income but actually you would be risking a great deal.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

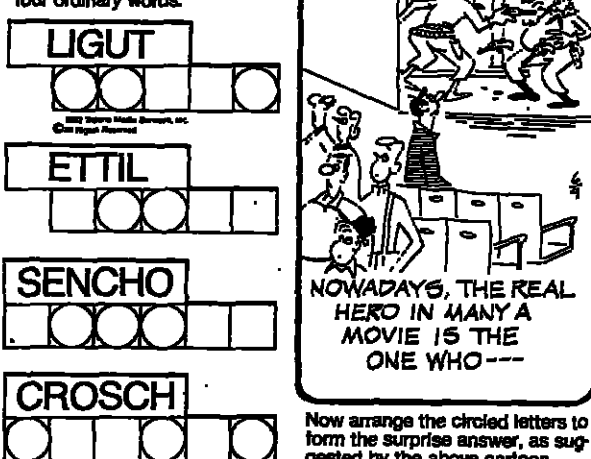


"Stanley, when we're done kissing, get a ladder and scrape all those little hearts off the ceiling."

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



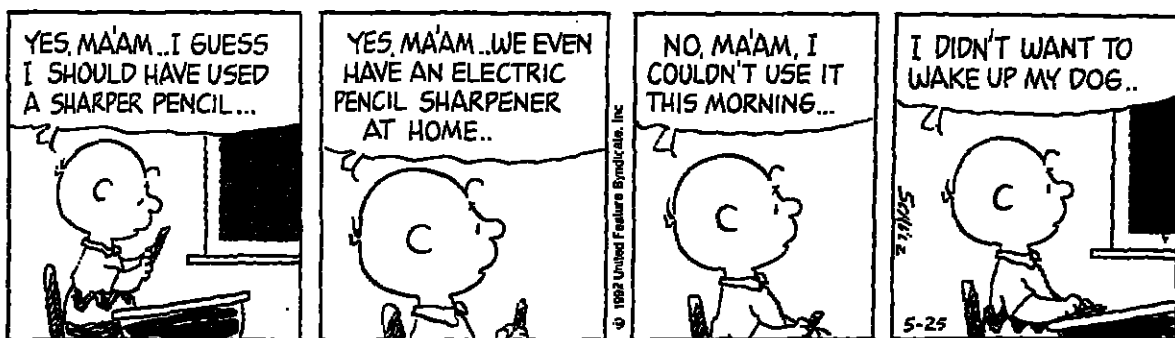
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: LIGUT, ETIL, SENCHO, CROSC

Yesterday's Jumble: FRAUD GOURD YEOMAN BUNION

Answer: The rules for making money won't work unless... YOU DO

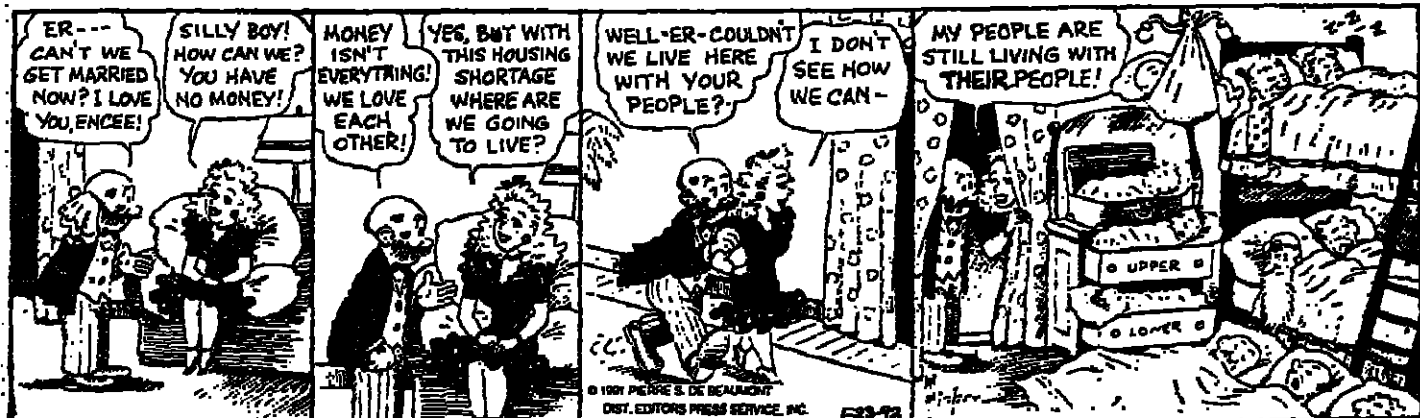
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



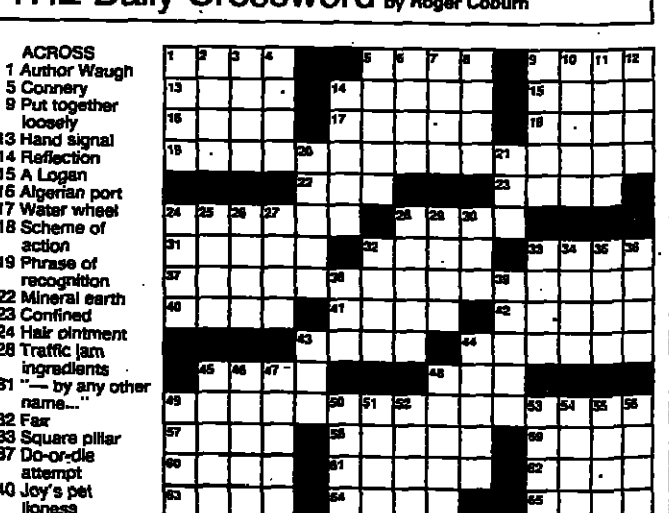
GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TARIAN HIRSCH
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
4♠ 9♥ 9♦ 3♣ 4♥ 4♠ 742
Partner opens the bidding one diamond. What do you respond?
- Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
4♠ 9♥ 9♦ 3♣ 4♥ 4♠ 742
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1♦ Pass 1♥ 1♠
1NT Pass
What action do you take?
- Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
4♠ 9♥ 9♦ 3♣ 4♥ 4♠ 742
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1♦ Pass 1♥ 1♠
1NT Pass
What do you bid now?
- Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
4♠ 9♥ 9♦ 3♣ 4♥ 4♠ 742
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1♦ Pass 1♥ 1♠
1NT Pass
What do you bid now?
- Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
4♠ 9♥ 9♦ 3♣ 4♥ 4♠ 742
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1♦ Pass 1♥ 1♠
1NT Pass
What do you bid now?
- Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
4♠ 9♥ 9♦ 3♣ 4♥ 4♠ 742
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1♦ Pass 1♥ 1♠
1NT Pass
What do you bid now?

THE Daily Crossword by Roger Coburn



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1 Across: 1. Author Waugh
2 Across: 2. Conner
3 Across: 3. Put together
4 Across: 4. Loosely
5 Across: 5. Hand signal
6 Across: 6. Reflection
7 Across: 7. Log
8 Across: 8. Algerian port
9 Across: 9. Water wheel
10 Across: 10. Scheme of action
11 Across: 11. Phrase of recognition
12 Across: 12. Mineral earth
13 Across: 13. Confined
14 Across: 14. Hair pigment
15 Across: 15. Traffic jam
16 Across: 16. Ingredients
17 Across: 17. by any other name
18 Across: 18. Fox
19 Across: 19. Square pillar
20 Across: 20. Do-or-die attempt
21 Across: 21. Joy's pet
22 Across: 22. Honest
23 Across: 23. Search
24 Across: 24. Wireless
25 Across: 25. Not one
26 Across: 26. Attack
27 Across: 27. Elver
28 Across: 28. In the end
29 Across: 29. Pal
30 Across: 30. Slowly
31 Across: 31. Musically
32 Across: 32. Lively
33 Across: 33. Pleasant
34 Across: 34. Alma
35 Across: 35. Amphibian
36 Across: 36. Not call word
37 Across: 37. Humdrum
38 Across: 38. This one's
39 Across: 39. Down
40 Across: 40. Over the hill
41 Across: 41. Chicago's love
42 Across: 42. Gabor and Peron
43 Across: 43. Penny
44 Across: 44. Merit
45 Across: 45. Exchange fee
46 Across: 46. Unfitted
47 Across: 47. Unfitted
48 Across: 48. Unfitted
49 Across: 49. Unfitted
50 Across: 50. Unfitted
51 Across: 51. Unfitted
52 Across: 52. Put away
53 Across: 53. Organic
54 Across: 54. Familiar with
55 Across: 55. Metric weight
56 Across: 56. Jekyll's alter ego

Financial Markets

In co-operation with
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Currency	New York Close Date: 21.6.1992	Tel Aviv Close Date: 1.7.1992
sterling Pound	1.5045	1.5080
Deutsche Mark	1.5227	1.5180
Swiss Franc	1.3725	1.3678
French Franc	5.1285	5.0945
Japanese Yen	125.43	125.43
European Currency Unit	1.3445	1.3525

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH	12 MTH
U.S. Dollar	3.75	3.81	3.87	4.25
sterling Pound	9.87	10.06	10.06	9.93
Deutsche Mark	9.62	9.62	9.62	9.62
Swiss Franc	9.12	9.12	9.06	8.62
French Franc	9.93	10.00	10.00	9.93
Japanese Yen	4.65	4.46	4.36	4.28
European Currency Unit	10.56	10.56	10.56	10.43

Commodity	U.S. Dollar	U.S. Dollar	U.S. Dollar	U.S. Dollar
Gold	343.40	6.60	Silver	4.05

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH	12 MTH
U.S. Dollar	0.6700	0.6700	0.6700	0.6700
sterling Pound	1.2772	1.2836	1.2836	1.2836
Deutsche Mark	0.4412	0.4434	0.4434	0.4434
Swiss Franc	0.4891	0.4915	0.4915	0.4915
French Franc	0.1311	0.1318	0.1318	0.1318
Japanese Yen	0.5342	0.5369	0.5369	0.5369
Dutch Guilder	0.3914	0.3934	0.3934	0.3934
Swedish Krona	0.1221	0.1227	0.1227	0.1227
Italian Lira	0.0584	0.0587	0.0587	0.0587
Belgian Franc	0.02134	0.0215	0.0215	0.0215

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH	12 MTH
U.S. Dollar	1.7460	1.7540	1.7540	1.7540
sterling Pound	0.07725	0.08025	0.08025	0.08025
Saudi Riyal	0.1777	0.1792	0.1792	0.1792
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.1815	0.1827	0.1827	0.1827
Omani Rial	0.2000	0.2100	0.2100	0.2100
UAE Dirham	0.1815	0.1827	0.1827	0.1827
Greek Drachma	0.3000	0.3000	0.3000	0.3000
Cypriot Pound	1.5550	1.5550	1.5550	1.5550

Index	30.6.1992 Close	29.6.1992 Close
All-Share	143.47	143.28
Banking Sector	104.96	104.80
Insurance Sector	151.02	150.64
Industry Sector	197.59	197.14
Services Sector	181.62	182.42

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.9120/25	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1997/2002	Canadian dollar
	1.5148/53	Deutsche marks
	1.7061/66	Dutch guilders
	1.3623/33	Swiss francs
	31.13/17	Belgian francs
	5.0920/70	French francs
	1145/1146	Italian lire
	125.00/05	Japanese yen
	5.4710/60	Swedish crowns
	5.9305/55	Norwegian crowns
	5.8220/70	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	\$343.65/344.15	

Yemenis detail increases in oil production

GENEVA (R) — Yemen hopes to more than quadruple its oil production by 1996 from nearly 160,000 barrels per day (b/d) currently to 750,000, its prime minister said Tuesday.

Haider Abu Baker Al Attas told a news conference that new projects in the next few years would allow his country to achieve the goal.

He was speaking during a break in a U.N. meeting on Yemen in which he appealed for substantial near-term international aid.

Yemen, the poorest country on the Arabian Peninsula, is a relative newcomer to the oil market and is not a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Ex-

porting Countries (OPEC).

If it achieves its goal, it would place it above the 300,000 to 400,000 b/d regularly produced by three of the 13 OPEC members — Ecuador, Gabon and Qatar — and put it on a par with Algeria, estimated to be producing 770,000 b/d of crude oil.

Mr. Attas' estimate was significantly higher than most earlier predictions and, if achieved, would be a significant boon to a country he said was suffering from 40 per cent unemployment.

He said Deputy Oil Minister Ahmad Barakat detailed the early steps the country would make, but Mr. Barakat said it was difficult to be specific on where the oil would come from since it

depended on the exploration and production by companies busy in 28 different blocks (zones).

Current production, which declined from a peak of 220,000 b/d last year, was all from Yemen Hunt Oil Co's 10-year-old fields at Marib in what was once North Yemen before it united with South Yemen in 1990.

The Asaad Al Kamil field at Marib, now producing 25,000 b/d, should go up to 35,000 this year.

Mr. Attas said that by the end of this year Shabwa Block Four, in what used to be South Yemen, would come on stream with 15,000 to 20,000 b/d. The Saudi Nimir Petroleum Co. took over this concession from the former Soviet firm Technoport.

But September 1993, a field in Masaleh is due to come on stream, Mr. Attas and Mr. Barakat said, with 90,000 to 120,000 b/d. Mr. Barakat estimated that

this would double by 1996.

He said a 400,000-b/d pipeline would carry the oil from Masaleh to Bir Ali, giving an idea of the field's potential.

Asked about problems British Petroleum (B.P.) have had, he said this would not affect the Yemeni estimates.

Western diplomats in Sanaa had said in April that Saudi Arabia had written to Western oil companies, including B.P., warn-

ing them not to explore inside what it considered Saudi territory.

B.P. then either cancelled or put on hold its plans to drill a Red Sea concession north of Hodeidah.

Mr. Barakat said he considered that the contract was still valid, adding that B.P. had asked Yemen to extend the project's duration because of problems with insurance.

Syria's new cabinet to continue reforms

DAMASCUS (R) — The new Syrian cabinet will continue efforts to reform the economy, promote private enterprise and develop agriculture, officials and diplomats said Tuesday.

Officials and diplomats say the new team will take special interest in promoting the private sector under a 1991 law to encourage investment.

Businessmen want the introduction of private banks, a stock exchange and a money market. Officials say the government is discussing the establishment of a stock exchange and an investment bank but private banks are not on the agenda at the moment.

Serbia freezes some prices, caps wages

BELGRADE (R) — Serbia introduced an austerity programme Tuesday, including wage-capping and a freeze on prices of energy and some food, to counter the effects of U.N. sanctions.

"The measures are designed to make life possible under the unjust United Nations trade embargo, but our primary activity is focused on lifting these sanctions," Serbian Prime Minister Radomir Bozovic told a news conference.

Mr. Bozovic said the Serbian government would immediately freeze prices of vital products such as energy, some food and transport.

He said the government would also limit wages and this would mean a 40 per cent cut in wages in real terms. He gave no further details.

Russia 'floats' rouble, demands factories pay debts

MOSCOW (R) — Russia released the rouble into a "controlled float" Wednesday and snatched a safety net from all enterprises in a move which critics said may herald a first major wave of plant closures and unemployment.

President Boris Yeltsin clearly hopes the politically-risky steps will help him persuade leaders of the Group of Seven major industrial powers at their Munich summit next week that his reforms are on track.

Aid worth some \$24 billion is at stake.

Igor Knyazev, head of the Russian Central Bank's exchange rates department, said a complex multi-tier exchange rate system had been replaced from July 1 by a single domestic rate based on trading in the Moscow interbank currency exchange (known as MICE).

But the central bank would be in a strong position to guide a still-embryonic market that accounts for only four per cent of total foreign currency dealing in Russia.

By buying and selling roubles, the bank hopes to ensure the rouble remains within limits that encourage domestic reinvestment and export.

The new exchange regulations could help build a more genuine currency market at home. But their effect, at least for now, could be far less dramatic than a decree Mr. Yeltsin issued ending a system of automatic support for loss-making enterprises.

He froze a system known as the kartoteka — a form of financial "make-believe world" inherited from the past communist system. The kartoteka list recorded debts of enterprises but the state took no action for payment.

Huge unpaid debts have accumulated between factories threatening to undermine the entire economy. The kartoteka embraces a majority of state

firms. From July 1, according to the decree, enterprises must answer for their debts.

Economist Aleksei Mikhailov, involved in drafting past economic recovery programmes but now a critic of Mr. Yeltsin's government, said the new payments system could be catastrophic.

"This could cause serious economic problems for companies. It could mean closures and the emergency of mass unemployment that could reach tens of millions by the end of the year," he told Reuters in an interview.

Unemployment is a particular threat in parts of Russia dependent on single industries now in serious economic trouble.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is seeking guarantees that Russia will push ahead with reforms as a condition for economic help that at first could amount to some \$24 billion.

Mr. Knyazev denied that the strict control of the rouble rate marked a step back from government pledges last May to introduce a floating rouble from July.

"This is what is known as a dirty float," Mr. Knyazev told Reuters in an interview. "A fully free float in present circumstances is unthinkable. We would be just throwing away all the money we have spent supporting the rouble in the past. Today's move is no compromise or step back."

The rate for July 1, based on MICE trading through June, was set at 125.26 roubles to the dollar.

The rouble has steadily fallen against the dollar during June, reaching 146.6 roubles to the dollar last week but recovering slightly to 144 roubles on Tuesday.

The rate is limited to domestic transactions. Convertibility on foreign markets, essential to Russia's integration into the world economy, remains a distant goal.

Chinese Communists raise flag of reform to new high

BEIJING (R) — China's communist party, one of the last Marxist ruling parties on earth, marked its 71st birthday Wednesday with a vow to concentrate on a new revolutionary task: Liberating the economy.

"Liberating and developing production is the basic task of our party, leaders and people in building socialism," the official party newspaper, the People's Daily, said in an editorial.

"The Chinese Communist Party has a new historical mission," it declared.

The party's birthday message to China's 1.1 billion people underlined again the strength of senior leader Deng Xiaoping's push for faster economic reforms after communism collapsed in eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

His argument, trumpeted by the official media but resisted by elderly Marxist conservatives, is that China's communists can keep power only if they dismantle the planned socialist economy their 1949 revolution fought to create.

"The reason is simple," the People's Daily said. "If we continue down that rigid, closed alley there would be no economic construction. The merits of socialism would not be apparent, and socialism itself would not be stable."

Mr. Deng's reform campaign, launched during a trip to booming south China in January, has been embraced by local officials eager to enjoy the fruits of development after a period of political and economic austerity following the 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy protests in Beijing.

Investment zones and economic development areas are sprouting up throughout China. A "stock market fever" centred on the country's two fledgling securities markets in Shenzhen and Shanghai is quickly spreading across the country.

Economic growth as measured by the gross national product (GNP) rose by 11 per cent in the first five months of this year against an official annual target of six per cent. Even conservative officials such as Premier Li Peng say total GNP growth in 1992 is likely to top nine per cent.

Mr. Deng and his backers justify the new system by calling it "socialism with Chinese characteristics."

France notches up another big trade surplus

PARIS (R) — France has reported another big trade surplus, bolstering the government's contention that the recent improvement after years of chronic deficits was not a flash in the pan.

The customs office said France had a surplus, after stripping out seasonal factors, of 4.53 billion francs (\$863 million) in May compared with 7.57 billion francs (\$1.44 billion) in April.

It was the fifth monthly surplus in a row.

What was a deficit in the first five months of 1991 of 19.01 billion francs (\$3.62 billion) has been transformed into a surplus in the same period of this year of 17.92 billion francs (\$3.41 billion).

Over the past year, the finance ministry commented, France has turned in its best trade performance in 20 years.

Industry and Trade Minister Dominique Strauss-Kahn said the government was targeting a balanced trade account for 1992.

"Exports are today the engine of growth. Our target is breakeven after a deficit of 30 billion francs (\$5.66 billion) in 1991," Mr. Strauss-Kahn told a news conference.

But France's exporting prowess is not helping to alleviate an obstinately high level of unemployment, despite the fact that France's growth is above that of its neighbours, he said.

In April unemployment in France touched a record high of 2.90 million people, or 10 per cent of the active workforce.

Junior Trade Minister Bruno Durieux brushed aside suggestions that the run of trade surpluses meant the government could cut interest rates or allow public spending to rise.

But good trade results gave France room for manoeuvre in an indirect sense, he said.

Wendy Niffkeer of London

Brokers James Capel said Finance Minister Michel Sapin was right to claim that France was finally reaping the benefit of its policy of competitive disinflation.

By holding down price increases, French exporters were gaining a decisive edge over their rivals.

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Amid clashes, relief aid handed out in Sarajevo

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Relief workers began distributing food in the besieged capital Wednesday as U.N. troops tried to bring more supplies from the airport despite clashes and sniper fire in the area.

At least four people were killed early Wednesday by Serb gunmen stationed in buildings behind the airport, said Maj. Dervo Harbinja, a spokesman for Bosnian forces. Sporadic firefights and artillery shelling broke out in hills around Sarajevo.

The relief supplies were flown in aboard four French aircraft Tuesday, a day after airport was taken over by a small contingent of U.N. peacekeepers. About 15 tonnes of supplies were taken to the city from the airport Tuesday. Meanwhile, hundreds of Canadian peacekeeping troops pushed toward Sarajevo Wednesday to help guard the airport. Other Western nations offered a wider, military-backed aid effort.

Bosnian officials say at least 7,440 people died in fighting after the former Yugoslav republic's majority Muslims and Croats voted for independence Feb. 29. Bosnian Serbs backed by the

Serb-dominated Yugoslav army have seized two-thirds of Bosnia.

About 840 Canadian soldiers Tuesday left in two groups on the 180-mile (290-kilometre) trip through mountainous territory dotted with roadblocks of rival militias.

A first group of some 200 U.N. troops, which spent the night in Turbe, a town near Travnik, 75 miles (120 kilometres) northwest of Sarajevo, was scheduled to arrive at the airport later Wednesday, U.N. officials said.

Three U.N. soldiers — a Canadian, Swede and Kenyan — were slightly wounded Tuesday when a bullet, apparently fired from a Muslim position near the airport, pierced a seam in their armoured vehicle.

The United States stationed warships off the Yugoslav coast and offered U.S. warplanes and helicopter gunships to protect the relief missions. However, President George Bush said Wednesday that he is not yet prepared to use those forces in Yugoslavia.

France said it would dispatch 120 soldiers to reinforce U.N. troops at the airport.

A day after a dramatic visit to Sarajevo by French President

Francois Mitterrand, the U.N. Security Council Monday ordered up to 1,000 Canadian peacekeepers to leave Croatia for Sarajevo to bolster the 80-member U.N. force at the airport.

In London, the Times Wednesday published a letter from Radovan Karadzic, leader of Serb forces in Sarajevo, saying he ordered his fighters only to fire in self-defence.

Failure to comply with the order "will lead to immediate dismissal and uncompromising court-martial," Mr. Karadzic wrote.

Internal pressure has been mounting on President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia, which is suffering hyperinflation and shortages caused by U.N.-imposed economic sanctions.

In Belgrade Tuesday, more than 20,000 people demonstrated against Mr. Milosevic for the third straight day. Serbia and its ally Montenegro announced an 84 per cent devaluation of the currency, the dinar, salary cuts and price freezes.

In Washington, Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams said there is no plan to "put U.S.

forces on the ground." But a contingent of 2,200 marines is in the Adriatic Sea off Yugoslavia on six amphibious ships that contain assault helicopters and troop carriers.

Despite the presence of about 14,000 U.N. peacekeepers in neighbouring Croatia, fighting there has not been fully quelled.

The U.N. Security Council Tuesday demanded Croatian forces stop attacks on Serbian enclaves within Croatia, and called for Serb remnants of the Yugoslav army and other militias to disarm.

"This was a warning to the Croatian government that if it misbehaves ... the council will take action," said French Ambassador Jean-Bernard Merimee.

In a separate development, Greece said Wednesday it will guarantee its borders with the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia following a European Community (EC) decision not to recognise it unless it changes its name.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Dimitris Avramopoulos said Greece was also ready to provide the republic with economic assistance.



P.V. Narasimha Rao

India rejects human rights criticism

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao denied that human rights violations have widespread in India, but he said the government plans to create an agency to look into alleged abuses.

"Our record is not one we have any regrets about. But we will set up our own human rights commission that shows we are prepared to judge ourselves. Our conscience is clear. Our hands are clean," Mr. Rao said.

Mr. Rao was speaking at his first formal news conference in New Delhi since taking office a year ago. He used it to discuss his economic reforms, the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, and India's ties with the United States.

In March, the London-based human rights group Amnesty International released a report saying that torture and death in police custody are "pervasive and a daily routine" in each of India's 25 states.

The report listed 415 documented cases of death in custody following alleged torture since 1985. It claimed that torture persists largely because the government refuses to acknowledge it exists.

Mr. Rao's Congress Party first proposed a human rights commission during the 1991 election that brought him to power. Although it has also been discussed in parliament, no commission has been formed yet.

The 71-year-old prime minister said his economic reforms have reduced bureaucratic controls over local industries, made India more of a free-market economy and raised foreign investment by 12 times over the previous year.

Although many Indian businesses and industries have approved the reforms, the public has felt the bite of inflation, which Mr. Rao admitted was running at 11.4 per cent.

Mr. Rao said India "still has a long way to go" and warned that other reforms could take more time because they require legislative or constitutional changes.

He said India-U.S. relations "have improved despite differences on some issues."

Recently, India turned down a U.S. request to try take part in nuclear arms talks involving Pakistan, Russia, China, and the United States or sign the non-proliferation treaty.

Pretoria accuses ANC of lying about De Klerk

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — The Pretoria government has accused the African National Congress (ANC) of spreading lies with its claim that President F.W. De Klerk had lost control of the police.

ANC Secretary General Cyril Ramaphosa made the accusation Monday at a funeral for victims of the June 17 massacre in Boipatong that claimed more than 40 lives.

Mr. Ramaphosa claimed that at a May meeting with ANC leaders, Mr. De Klerk admitted there were elements of security forces he could not reign in.

"I have no control over these policemen," Mr. Ramaphosa quoted Mr. De Klerk as saying. But Roelf Meyer, the government's constitutional development minister, said Mr. Ramaphosa's allegation is "sheer political propaganda devoid of all truth."

Mr. Meyer said the was at the same meeting, where the men discussed the escalating political violence that has claimed 8,000 black lives since Mr. De Klerk came to power in 1989.

Mr. Meyer quoted Mr. De Klerk as saying the "government could not be held responsible for acts of violence perpetrated by individuals and groups not associated with (the) police."

The government blames most of the fighting on a power struggle between the ANC, the largest black group, and the Zulu-dominated Inkatha Freedom Party.

Mr. De Klerk has repeatedly said that police as a group act impartially in the township fighting, and that individual policemen who break the law will be prosecuted.

Meanwhile South Africa's largest labour organisation said Wednesday it would launch a general strike "of unprecedented proportions" on Aug. 3 unless

the government acted decisively to speed democracy reforms.

"We are determined to remove this government from power," Jay Naidoo, general secretary of the 1.3 million-member Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), told a news conference.

He said the strike would be part of a mass pro-democracy campaign launched by Nelson Mandela's African National Congress on June 16 to demand township violence and to implement speedy reforms enfranchising voteless blacks.

"The duration of the strike is an issue still to be resolved with the alliance," he said. "What we did resolve is that the strike will be of unprecedented proportions."

A spokesman for the South African Chamber of Business, represents the main white-owned mining and industrial conglomerates, said he had no immediate comment.

The labour federation listed eight demands including majority rule, an end to political violence, above inflation wage increases, lower food prices and an end to retrenchments.

"If no decisive action is taken on our demands, COSATU is proposing a general strike of unprecedented proportions to begin Aug. 3, 1992," Mr. Naidoo said in a statement read to the news conference.

Mr. Naidoo said in answer to questions that the federation had taken the decision at a COSATU executive meeting attended by leaders of the ANC and the allied South African Communist Party, which has influence in black unions.

COSATU brought large sections of the economy to a standstill with a two-day general strike last November.

U.S. presidential race tightens

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. presidential race appeared to tighten into a close, three-way race Tuesday, as candidates evaluated the impact of a key Supreme Court decision and a new poll showed no candidate clearly ahead.

Democrat Bill Clinton focused on the closeness of the high court's 5-4 vote Monday upholding a woman's right to choose an abortion. Mr. Clinton said Tuesday that before making a nomination to the court, he would want to know that the court's decision allowing abortions would be secure.

President Bush said he was pleased with the court's decision, focusing on the court's upholding of Pennsylvania's restrictions on abortion. Mr. Bush has placed himself on the anti-abortion side. The court, however, upheld the basic right to abortion under a previous court decision known as Roe vs. Wade.

Billionaire Ross Perot said he respects the court's decision. He said: "Personally, my position has been and remains that basically this difficult decision should be a woman's choice."

It was not immediately clear which, if any, of the candidates would be affected by the Supreme Court decision.

The abortion debate intensified

as a nationwide poll by ABC Television and the Washington Post showed Mr. Clinton narrowly leading Mr. Bush and independent Ross Perot in what was virtually a three-way tie.

"There will be hundreds of polls between now and the election," Mr. Clinton said during a Monday night fund-raiser in Miami. "But what is happening is that people are responding to a campaign that offers a new direction for the country, that puts people first, that deals with the real problems of real people."

The Post-ABC poll showed Mr. Clinton with 33 per cent, Mr. Perot with 30 per cent and Mr. Bush with 29 per cent. The telephone survey of 1,007 was conducted on June 24-28 and had a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points, so the results represented a statistical tie.

Mr. Clinton's party chairman was cautious. "We can't take solace in this one poll, but it certainly is encouraging that this race has turned around," Democratic National Committee Chairman Ronald Brown said.

Previous polls have shown Mr. Bush or Mr. Perot leading with Mr. Clinton trailing.

Mr. Bush and his campaign leaders discounted the poll that showed him slightly trailing both Mr. Clinton and Mr. Perot.

Ethnic trouble-shooter named Moldova premier

MOSCOW (R) — Moldovan President Mircea Snegur Wednesday nominated one of his top trouble-shooters for the job of prime minister. Interfax News Agency said.

It said Mr. Snegur, whose former Soviet republic of 4.3 million people faces two separatist challenges at once, sent the nomination of Andrei Sangeli to parliament for approval.

Mr. Sangeli, agriculture minister in the last government, earlier headed a special commission seeking to defuse separatist bids by the Russian-speaking and Turkic minorities.

The nomination of Mr. Sangeli, 47, follows the formal resignation of the government Tuesday,

after it acknowledged it was unable to cope with acute economic problems deepened by ethnic conflicts.

Russian-speaking Slavs have declared their own Dnestr republic in the eastern part of Moldova, scene of months of bitter fighting between separatists and government forces.

The Gagauz, a small Christian Turkic people, are demanding autonomy in the south of the country.

The shuffle at the top appeared to find little resonance on the ground, where ethnic-Romanian Moldovans and Slavs in the Dnestr region again traded artillery and light arms fire.

The Dnestr authorities said 10 people were killed and 30 wounded in Moldovan shelling of the region Tuesday night, ITAR-TASS News Agency reported.

On Tuesday the Dnestr side said 425 of its people had been killed in the fighting since March. TASS quoted the Dnestr authorities as saying the latest shelling was in violation of a local ceasefire agreement reached earlier by Dnestr leader Igor Smirnov and Moldova's outgoing prime minister.

The area around the Dubossary Hydroelectric Power Station, which also supplies power to neighbouring Ukraine, came under particularly heavy fire, it said.

Pakistan vows no leniency in crime crackdown

KARACHI, Pakistan (R) — Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said there would be no leniency shown in an army-led crime crackdown in the troubled Sind province.

"All anti-state elements will be crushed with an iron hand," he told reporters Tuesday after a brief visit to the provincial capital Karachi during which he met senior army officials conducting the month-old operation.

Earlier Tuesday, the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) of opposition leader Benazir Bhutto asked Mr. Sharif's 20-month-old government to resign, blaming it for what it called an insurgency in the southern province bordering India.

A resolution issued after a two-day meeting of the PPP Central Executive Committee called for fresh elections under a neutral interim government.

"In case this demand is not met, the party reserves the right to resign from the (federal and provincial parliamentary) assemblies and launch a movement," it said.

But the Central Working Committee of Mr. Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League (PML), party, which met in the capital Islamabad, rejected the demand as a conspiracy against elected institutions.

The PPP regards Mr. Sharif's government as a product of massive election-rigging in October 1990 after President Ghulam Ishaq Khan sacked Mr. Bhutto as prime minister on disputed charges of misuse.

Thai parliament dissolved

BANGKOK (AP) — The House of Representatives was formally dissolved to pave the way for general elections designed to avert further political turmoil and street violence.

Several legislators interviewed said the dissolution was only a small step forward on Thailand's painful road to full-fledged democracy. They said the military's power had to be reduced through major, structural reforms.

Others greeted the new elections as a good chance to rid the house of numerous legislators widely held to be corrupt and incompetent.

Prime Minister Anand Panyarachun said Monday night that the country's second general election in less than six months would be held Sept. 13.

After a March 22 general election, pro-democracy protesters took to the streets and were suppressed violently by the military, but won their main demand — the resignation of Prime Minister Chuan Leekpaiyong. Security forces killed or wounded hundreds of pro-democracy demonstrators.

The protesters had been dissatisfied that Gen. Suchinda was appointed prime minister from his post as army commander without running for parliament.

Several constitutional amendments passed by the outgoing legislators would curb the power of the military-dominated upper house of parliament, or Senate, and require that future prime ministers come from the ranks of elected members.

The amendments have not yet been promulgated as law. "As long as there is no balance of power between the three powers (executive, legislative, judicial) and the military there will be no real democracy in Thailand," said Suwit Khunkitt, an outgoing legislator of the Social Action Party.

He said Mr. Anand, a former diplomat and businessman appointed prime minister on June 10 after Gen. Suchinda's resignation, was afraid of tackling the powerful military. Mr. Suwit said this was essential to prevent future political violence.

But Ari-Ong Jumsai, a legislator from the pro-democracy Phalang Dharma Party, said the military's influence would be reduced.

"I believe the people have woken up. They're aware of who's who in politics. They know who has been working for democracy," he said.

France to hold referendum on Maastricht on Sept. 20

PARIS (R) — France set Sept. 20 as the date for a referendum on ratification of the Maastricht Treaty of European union, European Affairs Minister Elisabeth Guigou said Wednesday.

The referendum, announced by President Francois Mitterrand last month after Denmark rejected the treaty, will be the last hurdle to France's ratification of

the accord.

Opinion polls suggest a comfortable majority in favour. A special parliamentary congress last month amended the constitution to enable France to adopt the treaty authorising a single currency, a common foreign, security and visa policy and possibility for EC citizens to vote in French local elections.

Japan backs aid pledge to Philippines with cash

MANILA (R) — Philippine President Fidel Ramos received a \$200 million loan from Japan in his first full day in office Wednesday and pledges of support from other allies.

Officials said the loan was to finance the rehabilitation of villages and towns ravaged by the eruption of Mount Pinatubo volcano last year.

Gen. Ramos was sworn into office Tuesday in the country's first peaceful political transition for 26 years. He vowed to take swift and decisive measures to revive the battered economy.

In a meeting with former Premier Toshiki Kaifu, who represented Japan at the inauguration, Gen. Ramos pledged to pursue the economic reforms of his predecessor Corason Aquino.

Mr. Kaifu praised his commitment to stabilise the economy by keeping inflation to single digits and cutting the budget deficit.

U.S. Peace Corps director Elaine Chao, who led the American delegation to the inauguration, said after meeting Gen. Ramos that Washington supported his effort to rehabilitate the economy.

Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said Gen. Ramos's peaceful assumption of power would boost investor confidence in the Philippines and help the economy recover.

"I think the nature of the transition of the new government is such that there will be quite a lot of investment confidence now in the future of this country," he said after meeting Gen. Ramos.

"I think the investment climate here is getting increasingly attractive to ... international business generally."

Mr. Evans said political instability caused by army mutinies in 1987 and 1989 was slowly disappearing.

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COLUMN

Thatcher takes seat in House Of Lords

LONDON (R) — Former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who dominated British politics through the 1980s, took a seat in the parliamentary upper house, the House Of Lords, after being ennobled by Queen Elizabeth II. In an ancient ceremony in the upper house, Mrs. Thatcher, the daughter of a grocer whose steely political skills earned her the nickname "iron lady," was sworn in as Baroness Thatcher of Kesteven, the name of the area round her home town of Grantham. Thatcher, 66, who was ousted from power by a revolt in her own conservative party in November, 1990, is expected to continue to criticise the pro-European policies of her successor John Major from the unelected upper house. But the House Of Lords, which gives Mrs. Thatcher a parliamentary platform for her views, affords her far less influence than she might had in the elected House of Commons.

Baboon transplant patient sits up, talks

PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania (R) — Doctors kept a close watch for signs of rejection on the 35-year-old man who received a baboon's liver in a history-making operation, but said he was sitting up and talking. Doctors Andreas Tzakis and Thomas Starzl of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Centre's Presbyterian Hospital said they were watching the patient — who has chosen to remain anonymous — for possible rejection, bleeding or infection. The unidentified Hepatitis B patient, who suffered from severe liver damage before his operation, received his liver in an operation Sunday. "He is breathing on his own now, but is still in critical condition, and is being fed intravenously," said Dr. Tzakis, a member of the 28-member team that performed the transplant. Dr. Tzakis and Dr. Starzl told a news conference that the next seven to 10 days will be crucial. Dr. Tzakis also said that the patient saw his family and remained alert and talkative. The doctors said the patient watched and was gratified by extensive television coverage about his operation.

Strange tongues descend on churchgoers

LONDON (R) — Worshipers at a Catholic Church in Britain get more than sermons delivered. The church microphone system also gives them pop music, opera and even policemen barking out orders in unholly language. Father Brian O'Higgins, parish priest of Our Lady Immaculate Church in Chelmsford, east of London, said engineers had tried but failed to stop the system picking up radio signals. "When we got the mikes we had grand opera during mass because it was tuned into a Spanish radio station. We have also had taxi radio messages and pop music," Fr. O'Higgins said. The latest disembodied voice was a police inspector ordering his men "to give them a good rollocking (telling off)" when they went to deal with rowdy teenagers. "I was told afterwards the language was not exactly parliamentary," Fr. O'Higgins said.

Police hunt woman who tossed coin before theft

SYDNEY (R) — Australian police are searching for a woman who tossed a coin to decide whether to steal a cassette recorder or television set from a Sydney store. The woman, in her early 40s, told the storeowner "you lose" and ran from shop with the recorder and a small amount of cash before the owner had time to react, a police spokeswoman said.

Remorse prompts robber to return — and be caught

TOKYO (R) — A twinge of conscience prompted a robber to return to the scene of his crime the next day — only to be arrested, Japanese police spokesmen said. Takanori Ochi, 25, crept into the room of a young woman in a Tokyo suburb and stole 30,000 (\$240). But the next night he went back to the same neighbourhood, carrying the stolen money with him — only to be arrested by police investigating the case. The spokesman quoted Ochi as saying he was on his way back to the flat planned to apologise to the woman. But he did not say if the man was going to give back the money.

Germany quits Eurofighter, offers new concept

BONN (R) — Cash-strapped Germany announced that it was quitting the costly European Fighter Aircraft (EFA) programme but offered to develop a cheaper plane with partners Britain, Italy and Spain.

The long-awaited decision came at a meeting of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) and their Bavarian allies, the Christian Social Union (CSU).

"It is clear that the EFA will not be produced," Defence Minister Volker Ruehe told reporters after the meeting.

"The funds will be used for a plane more suited to the new times," said Mr. Ruehe, who has campaigned since becoming defence minister three months ago for the EFA to be scrapped.

Mr. Ruehe's argument that the plane was politically obsolete and too expensive has won support from Kohl, who is anxious to save money to finance the reconstruction of east Germany.

With the decision, the emergent defence minister also won against stiff opposition from Bavaria, home of Germany's defence industry, and Bonn politicians worried that a pullout would mean that Germany would not be a reliable European partner.

Mr. Ruehe, who will meet his British counterpart Macdon Rife in London on July 6, said he expected difficult negotiations, especially with the British.

Britain has objected furiously to any plans to go back to the drawing board and develop a new plane, saying that it would make the fighter more expensive and delay it beyond 2000.

A CDU/CSU statement said the Eurofighter was too expensive in its current form and that a less sophisticated and cheaper plane could be developed now that the cold war was over.

The government offered to continue working with its European partners and to build a new plane with them, possibly adding other countries such as France, Mr. Ruehe said.

The idea appeared to be a concession not only to Bonn's partners but also to the CSU, which had fought to protect the thousands of jobs at stake in Bavaria.

The third party in the ruling coalition, the Liberal Free Democrats (FDP), has long been against the fighter, as have the opposition Social Democrats (SPD).

Germany wants to use EFA technology and remaining development funds for a modern European aircraft corresponding to future risks and tactical demands, the statement said.

"This is not a question about German reliability," Mr. Ruehe said, explaining that under the agreement Bonn was free to decide whether to enter production of the EFA or not.

He said a new plane must cost

less than 100 million marks (\$65 million). Bonn says each jet would now cost at least 133 million marks (\$87 million) but industry sources estimate the total cost would be lower.

Mr. Ruehe has said Germany should buy a plane on the market in 1996 or produce one under licence if its partners turn down the offer to develop a new plane.

Germany has committed six billion marks (\$3.9 billion) to the development phase, or one-third of total development costs, and spent about half of that so far.

In London, British Prime Minister John Major told parliament before the German announcement that the partners in the Eurofighter project would have to think again about its future if Bonn withdrew.

He said Britain still considered the EFA the best aircraft to take the four air forces into the next century and that there was a military need for it.

Last week British Defence Procurement Minister Jonathan Aitken called Mr. Ruehe's idea to cancel the EFA "an extravagant piece of nonsense."

He said it would waste 15 billion marks (\$9.6 million) spent on developing it and deliver a less capable aircraft.

Jack Gordon, head of the EFA project in Britain's Ministry of Defence, said in a statement before the German decision that Mr. Ruehe's low-budget plane would not be a suitable alterna-

tive. "It would be at least 20 per cent more expensive for all concerned than completing EFA. There would be a delay in up to eight years in replacing the existing aircraft in the four air forces and the new design would be inferior to other aircraft already in service," he said.

Britain has said German withdrawal would be a grave setback but that London, Rome and Madrid would hope to proceed, possibly with as few as 450 aircraft rather than the 765 envisaged when the programme was launched.

Eurofighter Jagdflugzeug GmbH, formed in 1986, is owned by Daimler-Benz (33 per cent), British Aerospace PLC (33 per cent), Italy's Alenia SPA (21 per cent) and Construcciones Aeronauticas SA of Spain (13 per cent).

The FDP in a statement later agreed as expected with the CDU/CSU and said Germany should try to build a cheaper plane together with the three partners, and possibly also with France.

"The EFA should not be built," the FDP said after a party leadership meeting. "Consequently no funds for equipping for production will be allocated in the 1993 federal budget."

The decisions by the coalition partners mean that no money for the EFA production phase will be included in the budget.